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Inter-Arab Affairs

GCC Foreign Ministers Begin Damascus Meetings

Syria's Al-Shar' Opens Session

NC0503153591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus—The foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] began meetings in Damascus this afternoon to discuss various issues related to the current Arab situation.

Speaking at the opening session, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' welcomed their highnesses and excellencies the GCC foreign ministers and the foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Damascus which, throughout its noble history and since the dawn of Islam, has proven that it cares about its brothers, shares their pains and joys, is not ungrateful and does not reprove with spite, and is faithful to its principles, defends justice, and rejects injustice and aggression. He added that Damascus' faith and determination are not weakened by setbacks and tribulations, that it does not become arrogant when victorious, and that it does not feel well, secure, and peaceful except when the entire nation is feeling well, secure, and peaceful.

He went on to say: While we are overcome with satisfaction because Kuwait has been restored to its people and the war has ended, our minds and hearts are preoccupied with the pain and sufferings of our Arab people in Kuwait and Iraq and with the current situation in our region that has resulted from the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait. This occupation should not be repeated after having seen the destruction and division it has brought to the area. He added: Our region has been through seven months that have deeply shaken Arabs and Muslims everywhere. During these months, many of their minds have been paralyzed while others have been entrapped in a glittering and lethal net woven by the complexities of the Iraqi regime's head, his clique, and those who have encouraged him and made him believe that the occupation of Kuwait was a national action and that commitment to this occupation is jihad and martyrdom. This is so the entire nation would fall into this fatal trap in the same way the fraternal Iraqi people have fallen into it.

The Syrian foreign minister stressed that the Arab entity—which has remained cohesive throughout the ages despite the many schisms and artifical divisions inflicted on it by colonialism—received during the Gulf crisis a grave blow to the heart and that it would not be easy for our peoples to overcome the consequences in one or two generations. He said: For the first time in the Arabs' history, Arab differences have turned into an international bloody difference in which a brother has killed his brother and has been forced to seek the support of a stranger instead of a relative to repel the evil aggression against him.

Al-Shar' noted the many appeals and messages addressed by the Arab leaders to the Iraqi president since 2 August 1990 in which they appealed to him to withdraw from Kuwait to spare Iraq and the region the expected consequences. He also said: The post-Gulf war era, the major changes in international relations that preceded it, and the revival of the United Nations and its resolutions during that crisis pose many questions, most of which will remain without definite answers. The most important point nevertheless remains: that our countries must take the initiative in establishing the bases for security and stability in our region. This is the important question whose answer constitutes a safe way for confronting the various questions and challenges, foremost of which is ending the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, ensuring the Palestinian people's national rights, and letting our countries take the initiative in establishing the bases of peace and stability in the region. The latter is indispensable if we want to contribute effectively and constructively to formulating the new world order and to cooperating equally with other countries to protect our peoples' interests and to bring about their advance, stability, and progress.

Concluding his speech, the foreign minister expressed confidence that the spirit of cordiality and fraternity would prevail during these talks, just as it did in previous discussions. He also hoped for success, wishing that the outcome would assure our Arab nation and would constitute a firm basis for more comprehensive Arab security and a starting point for joint Arab action that would not remain mere ink on paper as in the past.

Mubarak Bin-'Ali al-Khatir, Qatari foreign minister and chairman of the current GCC foreign ministers' council, then delivered a speech which he started by conveying, on behalf of the GCC foreign ministers in his capacity as chairman of the current session, to the Syrian president, government, and people the sincerest feelings of gratitude and thanks for the honorable stand of support for justice and of confronting injustice and tyranny.

He added: We derive much pride from Syria's stand. As we have always known it to be and as it has been throughout history, Syria has been faithful to its principles, enthusiastic about fraternity, opposed to aggression, and supportive of justice. It has also put preservation of fraternity above all considerations and used its resources for the good of all and aside from transient benefits and selfish gains. He stressed that Syria has always been generous with its contributions and faithful to its principles. He said that it has always given to those it trusts and to those in whom it believes. He added: During the critical stage in the Gulf region, Syria and Egypt were at the forefront of those who realized the extension of the adventure and its consequences for joint Arab action. They worked to protect the moral, political, and intellectual Arab heritage from the destruction brought about by the Iraqi regime's rabid adventure.

The Qatari foreign minister went on to say: We join today the Kuwaiti people in the procession of joy, a

people happy with freedom, committed to their solidarity with Kuwait's legitimacy, and determined that their will and not that of the aggressor should be the effective and overriding factor in Kuwait. He added: The Syrian and Egyptian peoples and their governments' stands have contributed much to the achievement of victory by supporting the rule of law and by joining the procession of legitimacy. He stressed that the stand of Syria and Egypt has been a basic factor in making international legitimacy move to contain and eliminate injustice. Arab determination to defend Arab legitimacy and the ties that bind the Arab people together appeared. He said: We have come from the GCC council meeting to meet with representatives of the Syrian and Egyptian peoples in the land of Syria. We must reach a framework for action that would take us from the determination of the present to the fruits of the future. We have come determined to make the bonds of understanding that have emerged during the Kuwaiti crisis the axis of action now and the concept for the road to the future by finding a serious, pragmatic, and realistic way of action.

'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, then spoke. He stressed that the treacherous invasion and its seven months of tragedy have been aborted thanks to the Kuwaiti people's sacrifices, the fraternal Arab countries' efforts, and the determination of the entire international community. Kuwait is now back in the hands of its people. The tribulation through which the region has gone through has increased our belief in our Arabism and patriotism and our commitment to our principles and objectives. He called for a pause to learn the lessons from what has taken place, to strengthen determination, and to utilize the resources to continue the united Arab march for freedom, security, stability, development, and peace, adding that this is dependent on collective Arab participation. He said: We have waged the battle to liberate Kuwait in one rank. With the same zest and determination, we will be united and will wage the battle to create peace, to provide security and stability for our peoples and countries, and to marshal our resources for the sake of our Arab people's prosperity instead of squandering them on servicing wrong policies, doomed adventures, and imaginary battles.

'Abd-al-Majid referred to the discussions held in Cairo last month and the declaration of the principles of coordination and cooperation between the Arab countries. He said that the biggest challenge facing us at this stage is to avert a repeat of what happened on 2 August 1990.

Terms Discussions 'Positive'

NC0503193091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus—The foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council member states resumed their meetings tonight under the chairmanship of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'.

The ministers continued discussions of the issues discussed at this morning's session concerning the security, political, and economic aspects of the region's future.

In a statement he made to correspondents following the first session, al-Shar' said that the discussions held by the eight foreign ministers were constructive and positive. He added: We did not feel any differences during our deliberations, whether on the importance of coordination and cooperation among the eight countries or on the various security, political, and economic aspects of the region's future. He said that all the ministers spoke at the session and expressed their countries' views on all these issues. He added: We found out that our assessment of our countries' stands is identical and united. He noted that the conferees are discussing a concept for cooperation and coordination among the eight countries and that agreement on its context is expected in view of the absence of any significant differences in views. He expressed his belief that the final session will be held tomorrow morning, noting that anything agreed upon by the foreign ministers must be followed by a phase during which it must be ratified by each country's constitutional establishments.

Al-Shar' stressed that the common understanding of this coordination and cooperation constitutes a firm basis and a starting point for more comprehensive cooperation between the Arab countries and that it is open to these countries. Concluding his statement, he said that the eight Arab foreign ministers might possibly meet with the EC's foreign ministers troika delegation tomorrow afternoon in Damascus.

Egyptian, Kuwaiti Ministers Comment

NC0503201991 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpts] This morning Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' opened the meetings of the Syrian, Egyptian, and Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers. [passage omitted]

Addressing the session, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister said: The security and development factors, which are being completed today, were at the core of the Cairo meeting's deliberations. Explaining Egypt's view of the security arrangements in the region, he stressed that they are based on the Arab League Charter, the Joint Arab Action Treaty, and economic cooperation among the League's member states. They are also in line with the UN Charter and should be brought about in complete harmony. He said: They are by their nature defensive arrangements and not imposed from abroad. The Arab forces from Egypt and Syria now in the Gulf could be the nucleus for setting up an Arab peacekeeping force. He noted also the need to make the Middle East region free from the weapons of mass destruction, adding that this should apply to all countries in the region.

'Abd-al-Majid stressed that finding a just and comprehensive solution for the Palestinian issue is one of the principal bases for security and stability. He also said that the catastrophe of 2 August 1990 was caused by the Iraqi leadership's deviation from its Arab commitments.

The Kuwaiti foreign minister then spoke. He said: I am honored to address you here at our meeting in the glorious historic capital of civilization, Damascus. He noted that the meeting is held under very critical and complicated circumstances and at a stage when Kuwait's liberation has been achieved. He expressed the appreciation of the GCC leaders and countries for the brothers in Syria and Egypt for their magnificient and constructive role in supporting right and justice. He stressed that this stand reflects the nobility of pan-Arab commitment.

He added: Our cooperation today represents the blessed efforts of our countries. He stressed the determination to attain the legitimate aims and to achieve coordination and cooperation between the GCC, Syria, and Egypt on the bases of the deep historic relations and profound understanding of the same fate and in line with the Arab League charter and resolutions. He said: What doubles the importance of our steps of coordination is that they come at critical circumstances and at times of prominent international changes that impose on us momentous fateful challenges and require us to act quickly so that our nation can take its rightful place among the nations and peoples of the world.

Concluding his speech, the Kuwaiti foreign minister conveyed the greetings and feelings of gratitude of the Kuwaiti amir, government, and people for the Syrian Arab Republic, the Arab Republic of Egypt, and their inspired leaderships for their historic stands with the Kuwaiti people at critical and bitter times.

'Damascus Declaration' Drafted

NC0503195691 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1902 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 5 Mar (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made a statement to reporters after the conclusion of the evening session of the meeting between the Syrian, Egyptian, and Gulf Cooperation Council foreign ministers. He said that the session was devoted to the discussion of the draft declaration of the principles and goals of coordination and cooperation among these countries. He added that, at the end of the discussion, the final draft of the declaration was agreed upon, and it is being typed now. He noted that the declaration will be published and read out to journalists following the morning session tomorrow.

Al-Shar' added that the declaration provides for coordination and cooperation in the political, economic, and security spheres among the eight countries.

Al-Shar' said that all the participating ministers have expressed satisfaction with the results that have been achieved.

He announced: We did not have any difficulty in formulating the clauses included in the declaration of the principles and goals of coordination and cooperation among the eight countries. The brothers, the foreign ministers, wished to call it the Damascus Declaration, and we welcomed this.

At the same time, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, told reporters at the end of the evening session that the views of the eight ministers were identical. He added that the credit for Kuwait's liberation goes to the Arab will and the Arab countries who supported Kuwait and international legitimacy.

Ministers Sign Declaration

NC0603112591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf Cooperation Council states held their closing session chaired by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' in the presence of the foreign ministers of the eight countries and the delegations accompanying them.

The foreign minister opened the session with the Damascus Declaration, which concerns coordination and cooperation among the Arab countries. It was read by GCC Secretary General 'Abdallah Bisharah.

The declaration said: The participating parties assert their resolve to work toward giving a new spirit to joint Arab action and toward establishing fraternal cooperation on firm bases that are built on principles of coordination and cooperation. The parties also will work toward setting up a new Arab system to consolidate joint Arab action. The arrangements agreed upon by the participating members are to be considered groundwork to be built upon. An opportunity must be made for other Arab countries to participate in this declaration in light of its interests and goals.

The declaration stressed the need to enable the Arab nation to direct all its capabilities toward confronting the challenges facing stability and security in the region, to bring about a just and comprehensive solution for the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Palestinian issue in accordance with the UN Charter and relevant resolutions, to promote economic cooperation among the participating members, and to respect the principle of sovereignty of every Arab country over its natural and economic resources.

After the declaration was read to the delegations participating in the meeting and a large number of Arab and international journalists, news agency, newspaper, and radio and television correspondents, the foreign ministers of the eight countries—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Qatari Foreign Minister Muburak 'Ali al-Khatir; Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal; Rashid 'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi,

United Arab Emirates foreign minister; Bahraini Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Ibn-Mubarak Al Khalifah; Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs; and Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, signed eight copies of the Damascus Declaration.

After the declaration was signed, a closed session was held to follow up issues of mutual interest.

Further on Contents

LD0603113591 London KUNA in Arabic 1050 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Excerpts] Damascus, 6 Mar (KUNA)—Eight Arab states have signed today the declaration of coordination and cooperation in fields of security, politics, and economy.

These states—Kuwait, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar, the Sultanate of Oman, Syria, and Egypt—have stressed in their declaration their commitment to respect territorial integrity, regional security, equality in sovereignty, inadmissiblity to invade land by force, noninterference in internal affairs, commitment to settle regional conflicts through peaceful ways, and to work toward establishing a new Arab order for bolstering Arab joint action. [passage omitted]

The eight states consider that the presence of Egyptian and Syrian forces on the territories of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and other states in the Gulf region represents a nucleus for an Arab peace force to guarantee the security and safety of Arab states in the Gulf region and a prototype that would guarantee the effectiveness of the joint Arab security defensive system. [passage omitted]

'Abd-al-Majid Meets With Counterparts in Syria

NC0503161391 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, [Egyptian] deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held talks in Damascus today with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', Omani Foreign Minister Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, and Qatari Foreign Minister Mubarak 'Ali al-Khatir. The latest developments in the Arab situation and the developments concerning the region's future were discussed during these talks.

In a statement, Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid said that the security arrangements must spring from our Arab region, must not be imposed on us from outside, and that they must take place with full accord among the Arab parties who desire to contribute to them. He added that the Egyptian and Syrian forces in the Gulf could act as a nucleus for an Arab peace-keeping force in the region following the withdrawal of the non-Arab forces.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that the security arrangements do not constitute an axis or a bloc against any side that is not party to them because they are in agreement with the requirements of international legitimacy and in harmony with the commitments of the parties to them in accordance with the UN Charter.

Palestinian Affairs

Intifadah Command Issues Communique No 68

LD0503233791 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Communique No. 68 of the Unified National Command of the Intifadah]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: A call, a call, a call. No voice rises above the voice of the intifadah, the voice of Palestine, the voice of the PLO. The call of the glory and bravery of Iraq.

O masses of the intifadah people: Here has been exposed the truth of the aggression of the United States, its allies and lackeys, after the wise Iraqi leadership knocked down all the excuses behind which the aggressors had hidden their intentions. What was required by the aggressors was the destruction of the Army and economy of Iraq, the imposition on it of humiliating conditions which fetter its development and the performing of its nationalist role in defending Arab wealth and causes. The valiant resistance put up by Iraq in exposing the aims of the aggressors, containing their ambitions and repelling their aggression, will be recorded on the brightest of pages in the history of our glorious Arab nation and in the records of all struggling peoples.

The attachment of the brave Iraqi Army to its people and solid, wise leadership is the sure safeguard for repelling the treachery of the aggressors. The solid national unity which bound the people of Iraq, its Army, and leadership—which U.S. imperialism and its allies and lackeys were unable to penetrate—as well as the concerted support of all Arab peoples and their honorable states in Palestine, Jordan, the Yemens, Sudan, and the Arab Maghreb, laid the foundation for the unity of Arabs and Muslims in the struggle against the new Western invasion aimed at looting the wealth of the Arabs and the Muslims and at subjugating them to the new era's logic, the conditions and rules of which U.S. imperialism so desperately tries to impose.

This unity has laid a solid foundation for the Arabs' nationalist renaissance and was not impeded by some of those who joined the Americans and participated in the aggression against Iraq. Peoples will know how to settle the score, and those who have committed injustice will know what will befall them.

All Arab peoples, headed by the people of the rising intifadah, have a right to hold their heads high and to be proud of the ability of brave Iraq, its leadership, people, and Army to inflict defeat on the aggressors and their goals—and to live up to the promise that Iraq will remain the formidable fortress against the rocks of which the aggressor's waves will be smashed.

Iraq's steadfastness in the face of the most formidable bombing ever, and in the face of the Atlanticist armies, coupled with some Arab armies which were led to fight the sons of their own nation who refused to kneel down to imperialism and its goals, and in light of an international economic blockade and the lack of any serious international support for Iraq—none of this bent Iraq's resolve.

The objectives announced by Iraq are taking effect in the hearts of all Arabs and Muslims, making them cautious in a way that unites all struggling forces and pushes them to be the masters of their own fate. Here we have the mother of all causes, the cause of the Palestinian people and their national rights, being made the top of all international agendas. There will be no peace or stability in the region as long as the question of our people has not found a solution that responds to their national rights, at the top of which is the establishment of the independent Palestinian state on the land of Palestine and under the leadership of the PLO, the legitimate representative of our people wherever they exist.

The Unified National Command, together with the brave intifadah people on the soil of the homeland, while they hail Iraq's steadfastness and its solidarity in defending its right to possess its own will, power, and wealth, and in defending the wealth and causes of the Arabs, condemn the U.S.-Atlanticist aggression and its lackeys and demand the immediate withdrawal of the aggressive forces from Arab lands, and the land of brave Iraq in their vanguard.

At the same time, our people are disgusted by the fact that Arab armies joined the forces of aggression and demand the immediate return of those armies to their real trenches, in the face of the forces of the U.S. and Atlanticist forces, and on the side of the brave people of Iraq and the rising people of Palestine.

The Unified National Command, while it calls on the UN Security Council to play its role in stopping the aggressive war against Iraq according to its charter, calls on it to cancel the measures it took against Iraq now that the latter has complied with all UN Security Council resolutions on the Gulf. It also calls on those Arab countries that condemned the aggression against Iraq, and on the Islamic Republic of Iran, China, and the Soviet Union to break the economic blockade and secure food and medicine for the people of Iraq.

At the same time, our people have the right to be the subject of such international consensus and will implement the international resolutions relating to their national cause and calling for a withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the territories of occupied Palestine and enabling the Palestinian people to set up their national state on their national territory under the leadership of their sole and legitimate representative, the PLO.

Until then, we demand provision of the necessary international protection for our steadfast people in their homeland under Israeli repressive measures. The Unified National Command asks all the supporters of our people in the world to help our people develop their economic and productive capabilities, asks the international community to provide assistance to our people through the PLO and the national institutions, and rejects any attempt to surpass the PLO as the sole representative of our people.

The Unified National Command calls on the masses of our people to direct their attention to the construction of more production cooperatives, economic projects, and the necessity to develop those already in place. It also calls on them for more economic self-sufficiency and calls on the Arab peoples to confront U.S. interests in the region and to impose a boycott on the goods and freighters of the United States and its allies until they get their armies out of the Gulf region.

Our Palestinian people on the soil of the homeland, while they reaffirm their pride in the wise and brave role played by the PLO, the leader of our people's struggle, and the genuine expression of their national expectations, call for an end of aggression against Iraq and for a solution to the Gulf problems within the framework of Arab dialogue and away from ambitious foreign interference, and call for a solution to all the region's questions, including the mother of questions—namely, the question of our people and their national rights.

The campaign to which the PLO was subjected, as a result of its representation of our people's attitude and its sincere expression of their will, will only increase our people's attachment to our sole and legitimate leadership, the PLO. Our people's rallying around the PLO, attachment to its program and wise policy, is today being reinforced more than ever before.

Our people warn all those forces that try to cast into doubt the PLO's right to represent our people and to negotiate on their behalf, and that desperately seek caricatural alternatives to the PLO, which rightly represents our people. Our people, across all segments and wherever they exist, are attached to the PLO as their sole and legitimate representative just as strongly as the PLO is attached to their rights of freedom and independence.

The Unified National Command calls on all our struggling people, mass organizations, unions, and institutions to dismiss all attempts to cast into doubt the PLO and its right to represent our people and to negotiate on their behalf. Our struggling people should do this by hastening to strengthen their unity and by reinforcing and complementing it in order to form an insurmountable barrier that prevents any infiltration into the ranks of our people, who are unified behind the PLO and its

struggling [word indistinct] on the soil of the homeland: the Unified National Command.

The Unified National Command calls on our struggling people to make the following activities successful:

First, to explain the real meanings of Iraq's steadfastness and to combat the propagators of despair and frustration. In this regard, the Unified National Command supports the high sense of struggle possessed by our people and the awareness which enabled them to [word indistinct] all the frenzied attempts carried out by the imperialist and Israeli information media which never stop trying to propagate their poisonous information in a desperate attempt to push our people to the brink of frustration.

Second, 2 April, Women's Day, shall see the organization of unified women's marches and the lifting of banners calling for our women's right to live in their independent state and their solidarity with the glorious Iraqi women.

Third, 3 April shall be commemorated by a comprehensive strike, the waving of Palestinian flags, and the repeating of songs that reaffirm our people's rallying around the PLO and its wise leadership as represented by the Executive Committee and its chairman the brother president leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], as a confirmation of the continuation of the intifadah and its escalation until the occupation has been expelled and our independent Palestinian state has been established.

Fourth, April shall be commemorated by a comprehensive strike during which Palestinian and Iraqi flags will be waved and slogans repeated denouncing the aggression against Iraq on the part of the United States and its allies and lackeys and calling for the departure of the occupiers from Arab land.

Algeria

Ghozali: No 'Recent' Contact with Saddam

PM0503162491 Paris LE FIGARO in French 4 Mar 91 p 5

[Interview with Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali by Pierre Branche in Algiers—date not given]

[Text] Algiers—[Branche] You have denied that negotiations are under way for Saddam Husayn to be given political asylum here. But have you had personal contact with him since the cease-fire?

[Ghozali] Yes, we denied that report because it is a case of blatant misinformation. We have always had contacts with the Iraqi Government and we are continuing to have them. But we have not recently had contact with President Saddam Husayn in person. However, there is no reason to make any kind of deduction from that. For instance, that he is contemplating leaving his country. There have always been gaps between his speeches. In my view, his current silence is not significant.

[Branche] Would it not be better for everybody, especially for Iraq, if Saddam Husayn left the political scene?

[Ghozali] Before I answer you, you must realize that our analysis of the crisis does not correspond to the one presented in the Western media. Having said that, it is not for us or anybody to decide whether a particular head of state does or does not suit the people he is leading.

[Branche] Who actually won this war, and who lost it?

[Ghozali] As far as the military victory is concerned, I can immediately see that those who lost the war all along the line are the Arabs, all the Arabs. Two Arab countries have been destroyed: Kuwait, and more especially Iraq—in other words, $200 billion or $300 billion in damage. This huge squandering of resources is fully shouldered by the Arabs. But not everybody has lost....

[Branche] Yes, but militarily speaking....

[Ghozali] Militarily speaking, the question does not even arise. Those who gain from doing so have tried, maliciously not innocently, to make international opinion believe that Iraq had the fourth biggest army in the world! Stronger than the armies of Germany, France, Britain, Italy, and Pakistan! From the start of the crisis, I pointed out that it was the army of an underdeveloped country faced with the world's most powerful army. So I think it is derisory to speak of a military victory in this specific case. I refuse to believe that it was to demonstrate its supremacy that the United States fought this war. Its aim was to destroy Iraq.

[Branche] Nonetheless, this collapse in 100 hours during the ground offensive....

[Ghozali] But those 100 hours were preceded by six weeks of intensive bombing during which all military targets, and also technical, economic, and social targets were destroyed by the equivalent of 3 million Scud missiles. This clearly proves that the aim was not just to liberate Kuwait. The aim was to break that country's backbone. And they continued to hit just as hard after its complete destruction to terrorize its population. Whatever grievances you may have against a country's leader, do you have the right to inflict such cruel destruction on its population?

[Branche] Regarding the Scud missiles, do you think it is a legitimate act of war to have fired those missiles on Israel which was not involved in the conflict?

[Ghozali] What I regard as illegitimate are the circumstances which led to the crisis and then to war.... Was the United States really taken by surprise by the invasion of Kuwait, and....

[Branche] In saying that, are you justifying the launching of Scud missiles at Tel Aviv?

[Ghozali] You must start from the position of the Iraqis who said: "If there is war, it is because an attempt is being made to destroy an Arab country for Israel's benefit."

[Branche] But it is Algeria's position I want to know.

[Ghozali] Algeria's position is that this war is the implementation of a plan made well before 2 August 1990.

[Branche] Fine. But, even from that viewpoint, do you think it was legitimate to blindly fire missiles on a country which was not taking part in the war?

[Ghozali] I have already answered that question. Nobody in your country is talking about the number of Iraqis killed. Figures of 100,000 or even 200,000 are being put forward, not counting the casualties which will result from disease, epidemics, and so forth.

[Branche] Do you believe in the belated conversion of Saddam the secular politician? Do you think he will remain a hero in the Arab Pantheon?

[Ghozali] I am a believer, and only God can see into people's hearts. Is Saddam a hero? Even if all the Arab countries condemned the invasion of Kuwait, the fact remains that the Arabs think they are the victims of a scandalous injustice. Iraq and Saddam henceforth embody, in a permanent way, the spirit of resistance and the rejection of the inevitability of having to bow down just because you are an Arab.

[Branche] Are you fully satisfied by the restoration of Kuwait's sovereignty?

[Ghozali] We were the first to demand the immediate withdrawal of the Iraqi occupation forces from Kuwait. However, we are very unhappy about the fact that it was achieved at the cost of the destruction of two Arab countries.

[Branche] The destruction of Kuwait is not the fault of its liberators. In this connection, have you nothing to say about the Iraqi persecutions in the emirate and the ill-treatment of which the liberated Kuwaitis accuse Baghdad?

[Ghozali] Nothing surprises us when there is war. And that is why we are opposed to war. A war in which 99.9 percent of the innocent victims are Arabs.

[Branche] Should Iraq be required to pay reparations for the destruction perpetrated in Kuwait?

[Ghozali] In this connection, there are UN resolutions which the Iraqis have accepted.

[Branche] What became of the 800 volunteers recruited by the Algerian fundamentalists in the Islamic Salvation Front to fight in Iraq?

[Ghozali] Let us say 80 or 100 left for Amman after the cease-fire.

[Branche] But did your government approve of that?

[Ghozali] Algerian citizens are free to go where they wish. But I would like to remind you that President Chadli Bendjedid clearly said that it was not men or fighters that Iraq needed.

[Branche] Do you approve of Morocco's decision to send a contingent to defend the emirates?

[Ghozali] Without wishing to judge the decisions of a sovereign state, I would like to point out that those troops were sent specifically in the framework of a defense agreement. Moreover, I would like to remind you that the coalition leaders frequently stated that the dispatch of forces to the Gulf had exclusively defensive motives. It was to defend Saudi Arabia. On 30 November, those forces turned into offensive forces.

[Branche] Are you not now afraid that the PLO will be dicredited in the international sphere by its unconditional support for Iraq?

[Ghozali] The fact that Israel speaks in those terms does not surprise us. What is new is that the same terms are being used by Western countries. And, the painful thing for us is that it is the party in government in France which set the tone for the anti-PLO campaign.... That takes us Algerians back 36 years to the days of Guy Mollet when he said that the National Liberation Front was not a "valid interlocutor." It is not and will never be up to European or other governments to decide who will represent Palestine! This is all just a historical hiccup. People are falling into the old trap of choosing who will represent the enemy.

[Branche] How do you explain the murder of Palestinian leader Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] on the eve of the conflict?

[Ghozali] Look for who benefited from the crime. On the eve of his death, he made some constructive proposals for averting the war.

[Branche] The "new order" desired by the international community is taking shape. Do you lump together with the coalition partners such countries as Japan and Germany that were content to finance the war effort?

[Ghozali] I would rather tell you that, leaving aside both "combatants" and "financiers," this war will definitely not serve the international community. It will certainly not facilitate the advent of this new political order as it has been described. What we believe and what we fear is that we are entering a huge international disorder. We have just been through a war, and it is not yet over. It is a kind of inauguration of the post-cold war period. Let me ask some questions: Did the West go there to show that it is stronger? I do not believe so. Did it go there to free Kuwait? I do not believe that either. If you look at the damage done and the foreseeable consequences, you realize that there are very good reasons for suspecting that this promised unipolar world heralding a period of detente is paradoxically much more dangerous than the bipolar world that we have experienced, even though this latter world rested on a balance of terror. We are afraid that the effacement of the USSR—which has not been compensated for by Europe's increased strength and which leaves a single country with the leadership of the planet's affairs—will bring us on a world scale the same results that exist on a national scale in a regime that has no opposition force.

[Branche] Do you consider the Western media's portrayal of the Algerian population's passionate support of Iraq accurate, or is a caricature?

[Ghozali] For the reasons I indicated earlier, the Algerian people are in solidarity with Iraq, just as the Arab people as a whole are, for that matter. If this is more apparent in Algeria than elsewhere, it is quite simply because there is complete freedom of expression there. This freedom of expression and this passion, which some people find surprising, reflect a genuine and very strong feeling. However, the Western media have made a caricature of the events themselves. This is lamentable and harmful. I would say that the crisis, the Gulf war, as related and described by your television stations and newspapers, is a masterpiece of misinformation. After all, less than 10 days before hostilities began, three out of four French people were against the war. Five days after the war the proportion has been reversed.... If I were you, a French citizen, or any Westerner, for that matter, I would be frightened by the strategy pursued in presenting the ins and outs of the war. It reminds me somewhat of the brainwashing described by George Orwell in his novel, "1984." It is a deplorable record. In a few weeks or a few months the real nature of this war will emerge. As a citizen of a country returning to democracy, I am frightened by the way the facts can be twisted in old and genuine democracies. I am terrified that it is possible to achieve in so little time such a

"harmony" of opinion as could not be achieved in the worst of totalitarian countries.

[Branche] So has there been a very bad start to relations with the West, and especially with France?

[Ghozali] A deep wound has been reopened among the Algerians. When it was decided to destroy Iraq the invasion of Kuwait was used as a pretext. That reminds us somewhat of the "blow with a fan" [dealt to French ambassador by Algerian dey, sparking French invasion] of 1830, that is, a regrettable precedent which, set aside what has happened in the Gulf, leads us to believe that in the future the threat could come from the North. But whatever we do, France is there across the Mediterranean, which is smaller than the Atlantic. We have common interests. Let us not forget it. In the decision that France made in this crisis, Algeria's feeling is that the peoples of the Maghreb counted for less than nothing. This is another burden that will be felt in our future discussions.

Bendjedid To Attend AMU Summit in Libya 10 Mar

LD0503201491 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] President of the Republic Chadli Bendjedid received today at the presidency Muhammad al-Zarruq Rajab, Libyan secretary for Arab Maghreb Union [AMU] Affairs and personal envoy of the Libyan leader, who had brought a message from Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. After the audience Rajab said the following:

[Begin recording] [Rajab] First, in Algeria one feels as though one is in one's second country. I came to His Excellency President Chadli as envoy of his brother Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great 1 September revolution, first to convey his special greetings and those of the Libyan Arab people in the Great Jamahiriyah, and to bring an invitation from his brother leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to attend the third session of the Presidential Council of the AMU, which will be held in Ras al-Lanuf in the Jamahiriyah soon, God willing. Naturally, the president accepted, and we in the Jamahiriyah will await his visit.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Secretary, could you tell us when the conference will be held?

[Rajab] On the 10th of this month, God willing. [end recording]

Islamic Salvation Front Officials Arrested

LD0503133191 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Violent disturbances have taken place in Terf Province, more precisely at Darane Municipality. The disturbances started with wall posters, then turned into clashes between strugglers from the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] and elements of the public security forces. Here is our correspondent with more details:

[Unidentified correspondent] The Durane Municipality, which belongs administratively to Terf Province, has lived through a tense atmosphere characterized by clashes between the public security forces and strugglers of the FIS. The main reason for the tension, according to information we have received from official sources, was the pasting of cartoon wall posters detrimental to his excellency the president of the Republic.

The police removed and seized the posters and summoned the responsible FIS bureau officials for interrogation and reference to justice.

According to eyewitnesses, the court found difficulty performing its duty due to the huge number of citizens in front of its premises. This prompted it to seek the help of the public security forces.

For further details about this incident at Darane Municipality as we have already said we contacted the deputy public prosecutor of the Annaba Judicial Council, Deghrant Mohamed, who said:

[Begin Mohamed recording] Thank you. In the name of God, the merciful and compassionate. Regarding the events in Darane Municipality, the information we have states eight wall posters were pasted on the walls of the FIS bureau. They depict the president of the Republic in positions that can be described as detracting from the honor and respect due to the president of the Republic.

Immediately upon hearing this, the republican agent at the Darane court began his investigations. The police carried out preliminary investigations. The posters were seized and the responsible officials were summoned to the police station where they were met and brought before the republican agent of the Darane court.

On Friday, 1 March, immediately after the Friday prayers, one of the three under prosecution delivered a speech defaming the president of the Republic.

The three persons are now under remand and will be put on trial next Sunday [10 March] at Darane court.

We have tried to contact the FIS leadership to obtain more details about these regretable events, but could not do so. [end recording]

Egypt

'Working Paper' for Talks With Baker Described

NC0503210791 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Report by Mustafa Bakri from Cairo; from the "Panorama" program—recorded]

[Text] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak today telephoned Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al

Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates, and discussed with him the latest developments in the situation following the liberation of Kuwait. The two presidents also discussed the proposed security arrangements for the region as well as the minisummit comprising the leaders of Egypt, Syria, and the Gulf states which, it is being proposed, may be held soon in Kuwait.

Meanwhile, an Egyptian team continues to examine the issues that will be discussed by the Egyptian leadership and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, who is due in Cairo on Sunday. It has been learned that the Egyptian working paper that will be discussed with James Baker tackles the future of the peace process in the region on the basis of serious and practical proposals for settling the Arab-Israeli conflict. The Egyptian paper maintains that the settlement of that conflict should be based on all the UN resolutions that have been issued on that matter.

According to well-informed diplomatic sources, Egypt will ask James Baker to seek the implementation of these resolutions in order to bring peace to the region. The Egyptian paper also proposes holding a peace conference in which all the concerned parties should participate. Such a conference should look into the implementation of UN resolutions and seek a settlement of all security-related problems between Israel and the Arab countries in a way that guarantees the restoration of all legitimate Arab rights. The Egyptian paper also calls for banning all weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East. According to that paper, the United States should try to persuade Israel to destroy these weapons, as such a move would establish the foundation for restoring peace and stability in the region.

Mubarak Holds Conversations With Regional Leaders

Omani Sultan

NC0603045191 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has received a telephone call on recent developments in the region from Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman as part of the ongoing consultations between the two leaders.

Qatari Amir

NC0603054791 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has held a telephone conversation with Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, the amir of the State of Qatar. During the conversation, they exchanged opinions and ideas regarding the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas. They also reviewed bilateral relations and ways of developing them.

Students Urge Withdrawal of Foreign Forces

NC0503145291 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1404 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Several students with known extremist tendencies have gathered at the 'Ayn Shams University campus and shouted slogans calling for stopping the Gulf war and withdrawing foreign forces from the region.

The majority of male and female students did not respond to this small group. Classes continued in all the university's colleges, and no incidents occurred to disrupt classes.

A security source stressed that the situation inside and outside the university is calm despite this small group's attempts to incite the rest of the students. The source said that the security forces will not interfere to disperse these gatherings as long as the students remain on the university campus, do not try to incite the other students, and do not take to the streets.

AL-WAFD—Saddam Must Not Escape Punishment

PM0503090491 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 27 Feb 91 p 1

[Jamal Badawi article: "Murderer Of Arabs"]

[Text] The mask has fallen... and the "hero" has turned out to be a coward who flees from battle like a rat. It has become evident that the glory that the hypocrites created for him is false and the steadfastness that they granted him is deceptive; his courage, idle talk; his threats, lies; his heroism, deception; and his weapons, blunt. The murderer who preyed on Kuwait has become a helpless ostrich that has no hope in life except to save itself from certain death.

The murderer wants to save himself from the Kuwaiti furnace. He claimed that the order to the "heroes" to withdraw was in compliance with Security Council Resolution 660, the first resolution issued on the second day of the occupation of Kuwait, which demands the invading forces' unconditional withdrawal and which the murderer scorned. He declared his defiance and tyranny, saying that he would not leave Kuwait even if the entire world fought him. He claimed that he would fight for 20 years. So why accept the resolution now that the catastrophe has occurred, lives have been lost, Iraq has been devastated, and Kuwait has been set ablaze!! Why did he not accept the resolution in time to spare the world the calamity that has befallen every home?

The murderer thinks that he is too clever and that he can deceive the world and pretend to respect international resolutions, when in fact all he wants is to flee and avoid implementing the 12 other resolutions. The most serious of them is Resolution 674, which requires the murderer to pay compensation to Kuwait for the money he has stolen, the lives he has destroyed, and the devastation he has caused.

It would be shameful for the international community to let that murderer flee with his forces under the cover of darkness on the pretext of withdrawal. The criminal must pay the price for the crimes that he has committed against others. And the oppressor must be punished for the sins he has committed. If he escapes punishment, then the balance of justice would be disrupted and the world would turn into a jungle in which wolves, snakes, and insects do as they like.

The murderer, who has defiled the values of Arabism and Islam, must become a lesson for others in order for Arabism to restore its honor and in order for Islam to be purged of the hypocrites trading in its name.

Argentine Defense Minister Visits, Holds Talks

Military Relations Discussed

NC0503132691 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—A session of military talks between Egypt and Argentina was held this morning. The Egyptian side was headed by General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production. The Argetine side was headed by Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez.

Discussions dealt with ways to bolster bilateral relations in military fields.

Following the talks, Gen. Abu-Talib declared that the meeting dealt with many topics on the exchange of expertise, rehabilitation of military cadres, and training. He said that views were exchanged on regional issues, especially the Gulf crisis.

In a similar statement, the Argentine defense minister described the talks as constructive and very important. He said Egypt and Argentina have a great deal of joint interests and have similar cultures and civilizations.

The talks were attended by Jorge Humberto de Belaustegui, Argentine ambassador in Cairo, and Staff Major General Hitler Tantawi, secretary general of the Defense Ministry.

Gives News Conference

NC0503173791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1406 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Argentine Defense Minister Erman Gonzalez has stressed the importance of Egypt's role in the postwar stage in the Gulf to achieve peace in the Middle East.

At a news conference today, the Argentine defense minister said that international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions on the Palestine question must be implemented. He pointed out that Argentina will spare no effort to help achieve peace and stability in the Middle East.

Gonzalez pointed out that during the talks he held today with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, minister of defense and war production, the two agreed to form joint military committees to study cooperation between the two countries. He added that several months ago his country decided to stop research in the field of sophisticated weaponry and military technology. However, he said the research in the field of developing defensive weapons is continuing with several states, including Egypt. [Passage indistinct] the UN Security Council resolutions regarding the blockade on Iraq within the framework of international legitimacy.

It is worth mentioning that Argentina sent two warships to help, along with the coalition naval forces, to implement the UN resolutions.

The Argentine defense minister noted that over the past three months, his country supplied the Kuwaiti Government with several ships, other means of transportation, and medicine. He declared that no agreement has been reached to sell weapons to the states he has visited during his current tour, which included the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Syria.

Departs Cairo 5 Mar

NC0503215791 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1852 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Mar (MENA)—Argentine Defense Minister Erman Gonzales and the delegation accompanying him left Cairo today for Paris following a one-day visit to Egypt during which he met with General Yusuf Sabri Abu-Talib, commander in chief of the Armed Forces and minister of defense and war production. They discussed cooperation between the two countries in the military field. [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan II Addresses Military Graduation

LD0403143691 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Speech by King Hassan II to a military officers' graduation ceremony at the Royal Palace in Rabat—live]

[Excerpt] Thanks be to the one God, prayers and peace upon our master the Prophet and upon his companions.

Officers, you are present here today to be sworn in. This allegiance expresses your loyalty to your religion—Islam, your homeland—Morocco, and to your king, who is at the same time the supreme commander of the Royal Armed Forces.

On this occasion, I would like to make a short speech that I believe, given the times in which we are living, has great significance and broad meaning.

Officers, first and foremost you should be at the level of knights. This is because in the history of Arabs and the

history of Arab armies a knight's title could only be attributed to a commander who deserves full respect and who shows respect for others. The term knight has been replaced by the word officer these days. May you be worthy to be knights and officers, may God protect you, thanks to your ethics in times of peace and times of war.

What has happened in the Gulf has confirmed to us that the ethics of other soldiers and armies, as well as of civilians, should be ethics of Islam, i.e. ethics of humanity, ethics of respect, and ethics of hospitality.

The other significant point that emerged from this regrettable and ferocious war is that we have learned that these days physical power alone is not enough. On the contrary, power should focus, before anything else, on mastering sophisticated technology. Power should be based on discipline and respect of times of operations. The officers, NCO's, and soldiers should coordinate all their armies to execute the missions assigned to each army. [sentence as heard] [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry on Iraq's Territorial Integrity

LD0603004991 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation made a statement about Morocco's point of view on the latest developments in the Gulf: The Kingdom of Morocco welcomes the end of the war and expresses its hope that this end will be followed by overcoming events and by normalizing relations among the countries of the Arab world so that the wounds can heal and friendship and cooperation among brothers can return in the best interests of all Arab peoples and states.

The spokesman adds: However, the latest developments inside Iraq are cause for serious concern about this sisterly state. In this regard, the ministry's spokesman reaffirmed Morocco's attachment to Iraq's territorial integrity and reiterated that even if there are problems among segments of the Iraqi people, and despite their potential for such problems, Morocco affirms the territorial integrity of Iraq. Such conflicts must be solved within a national framework, away from any foreign interference, in a way that guarantees the interests and safety of the territorial integrity of sister Iraq.

Tunisia

Ben Ali Meets With Algeria's Ghozali

LD0403151391 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali received this morning Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali, the Algerian foreign minister, with the attendance of Mr. Habib Ben Yahya, the minister of foreign affairs.

After the meeting, Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali stated he had the privilege to meet his excellency the president in these present circumstances. He added that there is a comprehensive and total accord between Presidents Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Chadli Bendjedid on the need to give priority to consolidation of the joint bilateral action in a way which strengthens the unionist action on the Maghreban level.

The Algerian foreign minister pointed out that he informed his excellency on the results of the proceedings of the joint committee. He mentioned that the Tunisian and Algerian sides were in total agreement on giving priority to implementation of the delayed economic or cultural projects and on focusing on all issues concerning the Algerian citizen in Tunisia or the Tunisian citizen in Algeria.

Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali said: We will follow up implementation of all the things we agreed upon because the political will is strong and available. As for coordination, bodies and officials in the two countries must be at the level of this will so that the two peoples feel more and more the credibility of joint and unionist actions between the two countries.

Regarding the way he perceives the future of the Maghreban joint action, in light of what has been affirmed by His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali since the Gulf war broke out regarding the necessity to unite the efforts of the countries of the region, the Algerian foreign minister said the Maghreban community is called upon to adhere to self-reliance on the national and regional level. He said in this respect the Maghreb Union gave, through this crisis, a very encouraging picture which confirmed the reality of the Arab Maghreb.

President Chairs Cabinet Meeting on Gulf Situation

LD0203040991 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali chaired a meeting of the inner cabinet yesterday morning [1 March] at the Republic Palace in Carthage. The meeting was to examine the development of the current Gulf situation in light of Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the ceasefire, in addition to the start of the international consultations to find a formal ceasefire in the Gulf.

Bahrain

Prime Minister Opposes 'Dismemberment' of Iraq

NC0503214691 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Manama, 5 Mar (WAKH)—Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah visited the Information Ministry complex this morning as part of the field visits which his highness makes to various state ministries, organs, and departments.

He was received by Information Minister Tariq 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mu'ayyad, the ministry's assistant undersecretaries and department directors, and other ministry officials.

His highness the prime minister spoke to the media personnel and journalists. He emphasized the importance of the media and the role they played during the crisis in the region. He noted the efforts that they made and their contributions to providing assurance, security, and stability to the citizens.

His highness said that [words indistinct] was not affected during these events and the Bahraini people had followed the latest developments in the Kuwait liberation war. He praised the major and good efforts made by the employees of Bahraini television and radio and WAKH during the recent crisis. [passage omitted]

His Highness Bahraini Prime Minister Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Salman Al Khalifah asserted that Bahrain and other regional countries do not accept the dismemberment of Iraq and hope that a ruling regime will be established in Iraq that will cooperate with other Arab countries for the sake of stability and security and to avoid the calamities of war and destruction, particularly such as that witnessed by Kuwait during the crisis when its resources were destroyed, its oil wells burned, and its scientific institutions destroyed. He announced: We want an Iraq that will be a support for the Gulf and the Arab nation.

His highness added that stability and security in the region are the real goal that should include all countries in the region. He noted that other important things are destined for our region and for this reason we must be vigilant, careful, and on the level of responsibility and the events. His highness the prime minister expressed the hope that meetings will be held among the Gulf Cooperation Council countries so that this goal will be realized and so that security and stability will be established in a way that will facilitate movement and travel among the region's countries.

His highness said that Kuwait's reconstruction and the elimination of the effects of the Iraqi aggression require much work and affirmed that Bahrain will be among the first countries to help in the rebuilding of Kuwait. He said that he had affirmed this to His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, during the latter's visit to Kuwait.

In conclusion, his highness the prime minister expressed thanks and appreciation to the employees of this vitally important facility and asked them to make further efforts in the service of their homeland. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Meets Argentine Counterpart

NC0303145491 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1128 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Manama, 3 Mar (WAKH)—Staff Major General Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Ahmad Al Khalifah met in Manama today with Argentine Defense Minister Antonio Erman Gonzalez, who is visiting Bahrain.

They discussed a number of issues connected with the victories achieved by the international coalition forces within their strategy to liberate Kuwait. They also discussed a number of issues of mutual interest and bilateral ties. The Argentine defense minister arrived in Manama earlier today.

Kuwait

Foreign Minister Denies Anti-Palestinian Measures

LD0503114691 London KUNA in Arabic 0953 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 5 March KUNA—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, accused irresponsible Palestinian sides of circulating unfounded claims on measures by Kuwaiti authorities against the Palestinian community in Kuwait. In a press statement, he said that the Kuwaiti authorities are only carrying out their duties to bring about peace and stability at the end of the Iraqi occupation, which created a section of people in collusion with it and collaborating with it to achieve its aims.

He stressed that the Kuwaiti authorities "must tirelessly pursue the criminal elements from all communities."

The following is the text of Shaykh al-Sabah's statement:

In connection with what was rumored by some, to the effect that the official authorities in the state of Kuwait intend to engage in practices against the Palestinian community present in Kuwait, Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, deputy prime minister and foreign minister has stated the following:

Some irresponsible sides in Palestinian circles have been repeatedly making false allegations and lies to the effect that the official authorities in the state of Kuwait have started carrying out practices against the Palestinian community present in Kuwait. Shaykh Sabah made it

clear that by this these sides are seeking to spread a spirit of hatred and estrangement in an open attempt by them to appear to be a defender of the fraternal Palestinian people.

As all know, the State of Kuwait has welcomed people arriving from all over the world, including the fraternal Palestinian community, and made available to them conditions for a dignified and peaceful life out of Kuwait's belief in what is dictated to it by its Arab nature, Islam, and humaneness, and out of the fact that Kuwait has always been committed to noble Arab values and principles.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad said that after the criminal occupation of its land and people by the Iraqi forces, which lasted more than six months, the Kuwaiti authorities, soon after the end of the hideous Iraqi occupation, exercised their normal tasks of maintaining security inside Kuwait after the criminal Iraqi occupier had destroyed all the constituents of the state and brought into existence a group of elements in collusion with it and collaborators to realize its aims of continued occupation.

Regarding the tasks necessary for Kuwaiti authorities to realize security and stability inside Kuwait, they must pursue tirelessly the criminal elements, from any community, and not show leniency to them, given that these elements have not shown to Kuwait and its people the basics of hospitality and care.

Shaykh Sabah added that Kuwait, which rejects these allegations categorically, calls for a perusal of its honorable record in the context of its dealing with anyone living on its land. Kuwait affirms that such allegations made by people with sick minds are false and bear no relation to the truth. Furthermore, the right of Kuwait to secure and strengthen its security cannot at all mean targeting any honorable person on the land of Kuwait, the land of love and peace, and the society of construction and generosity.

AFP Reports Curfew Imposed in Kuwait City

NC0503143991 Paris AFP in English 1416 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Kuwait city, March 5 (AFP)—The Kuwaiti government imposed a curfew on Kuwait City on Tuesday, decreed by Crown Prince Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah. The curfew is to run from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m.

Kuwait City has been under martial law since shortly after its liberation last week from seven months of Iraqi occupation.

Ministerial Council Meets on Curfew, Martial Law

LD0503165191 London KUNA in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Formerly Kuwait KUNA]

[Text] Kuwait, 5 Mar (KUNA)—A curfew throughout Kuwait between 2200 and 0400 was announced here today with the aim of fulfilling the requirements for security and stability in the country.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman 'Abdallah al-'Awadi, minister of state for cabinet affairs, announced in a statement that the council of ministers was informed of the decision of the martial law governor—his highness the heir apparent and prime minister—No. 1/91 when the council met yesterday evening and was chaired by his highness. It was also decided to keep the council in session so that the government could monitor state affairs and complete implementation of the emergency plan as quickly as possible. Following is the text of the statement:

The Council of Ministers met last night under the chairmanship of His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the heir apparent and prime minister, who opened it with an address in which he expressed thanks, gratitude, and praise to God the Almighty, for the bounty he bestowed upon the proud Kuwaiti people after liberating the dear homeland from the dirt of treacherous Iraqi occupation and the defeat of the criminal aggressor following long endurance of suffering. He hailed the sacrifices the Kuwaitis have offered and their heroic steadfastness which affirmed to the entire world the Kuwaiti people's faith in their just cause, their loyalty to their homeland, and their total readiness to defend it, a matter which has drawn the admiration and appreciation of the peoples of the world. His highness prayed to God the Almighty, to embrace our faithful martyrs with his compassion and to provide our detained brothers and the POW's held by the Iraqi authorities with patience and speedy release.

In his speech, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister expressed his profound thanks and gratitude to the leaders and peoples of all the sisterly and friendly countries whose sons participated in the joint forces with our valiant armed forces in the military operations. This resulted in the liberation of Kuwait and the restoral to the Kuwaiti people of their freedom and dignity and their sovereignty over their dear land, which was in accord with the principles of justice, stability, and peace in the world. His highness also expressed his utmost thanks and gratitude for the positive and constructive role which was played by the United Nations, and for the effective resolutions passed by the Security Council in the context of our just issue and in support of Kuwait's right. He stressed the importance of that accomplishment in supporting the security of the new world order and affirming its serious point of departure toward laying the foundations of stability and peace in the world. In his speech, his highness praised the generous hospitality and good welcome accorded to the sons of the Kuwaiti people by their brothers in the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and other sisterly and friendly countries during the tragedy to which Kuwait was subjected over the past few months. He stressed that that would remain the object of appreciation and gratitude by Kuwaitis over generations.

The minister of state for cabinet affairs added that his highness the heir apparent and prime minister hailed the honest efforts and the spirit of cooperation and mutual assistance epitomized by the steadfast citizens in Kuwait and those residents who cooperated with them in administering services and alleviating suffering during the treacherous occupation, calling on everyone to render help and assistance to the concerned authorities to establish security and stability in the country and to provide the means of safe living and a return to normalcy.

His highness the heir apparent and prime minister also underlined the importance of this critical stage of our dear homeland's history and the need for directing all energies and potentials to rebuild what the treacherous Iraqi aggression had destroyed and to overcome all the wounds and consequences created by this aggression. His highness also urged the ministers to double their efforts to accomplish the emergency plans in their respective sectors and to complete the state's utilities and services to meet the needs and requirements of the citizens according to the programs laid down so the cycle of life would return to its normal course and to create the radiant portrait of future Kuwait under the banner of his highness the amir, God protect him.

On the other hand, Dr. al-'Awadi said the council was informed of the amiri decision cancelling the amiri decision on the temporary headquarters of the Kuwaiti Government and some rules regulating its functioning, which was issued on 3 August. It was also informed of the martial law governor's decision No. 1/91 regarding the nationwide curfew between 2200 and 0400, which aims at completing the requirements of security and stability. The council will be in continuous session so that the government will be able to monitor the affairs of the state closely and implement the emergency plan as quickly as possible.

Planning Minister Outlines Rebuilding Tasks

PM0403103091 London SAWT AL-KUWAYT AL-DUWALI in Arabic 28 Feb 91 p 14

[Interview with Kuwaiti Planning Minister Sulayman al-Mutawwa' by Aminah Khayri in London; date not given: "Plan's Priorities To Rebuild Infrastructure and Maintain Security and Stability"]

[Excerpts] [Khayri] What definite plans are there for rebuilding Kuwait?

[Al-Mutawwa'] The Kuwaiti Government actually started planning to rebuild Kuwait several moths ago. We call it "the urgent plan for rebuilding Kuwait." We assumed from the start that the Iraqis would destroy all the services in Kuwait, including electricity, food supplies, telecommunications, and so on. This is why we decided to set these services operating again on our return. Of course, they will not operate to their full capacity, as they did before the invasion.

[Khayri] What other quarters have helped to draw up the plan?

[Al-Mutawwa'] We initially consulted the Pentagon and international banks. The Pentagon, for example, has offices that are experienced in that field.

[Khayri] What stages are envisaged in the plan to rebuild the State of Kuwait?

[Al-Mutawwa'] We have formed a team comprising representatives of all the Kuwaiti ministries, especially those whose work is considered crucial to the process of rebuilding the infrastructure.

We have prepared power generators, food supplies, medical equipment, and telephone equipment. They will be transported to Kuwait once the forces of international legitimacy give us the go-ahead to return. This is the first stage in the plan to rebuild Kuwait. In it, we will assess the scale of damage inflicted on Kuwait by the invading forces, especially with regard to vital amenities such as roads, the sewage system, and telecommunications. It is particularly important to make international telephone lines operational. [passage omitted]

[Khayri] Do you have any estimate of the new population after the expected changes are made?

[Al-Mutawwa'] What is certain is that the population will not return to the 2.2 million that existed before, for several reasons: Most services in Kuwait used to be provided free or were substantially subsidized by the government, because the state was responsible for its citizens' individual and social prosperity. This provided very comfortable living conditions. As a result, most families acquired their own maids, chauffeurs, and servants. These constitited a large proportion of the marginal work force. This is a sector of the work force that does not contribute to developing the economy but, rather, exhausts it. This is why we will have to reexamine such sectors.

[Khayri] Does that mean that work permits, visas, and so on will be scrutinized?

[Al-Mutawwa'] Of course, and there are two roads which we must follow: first, to raise the level of skills required of those who want to work in Kuwait. Second, there are certain important strategic posts that must not be occupied by non-Kuwaitis.

[Khayri] Do you mean certain nationalities?

[Al-Mutawwa'] I do not mean a certain nationality to the exclusion to another. I believe that we learned a valuable lesson when we placed complete confidence in people who did not deserve it. Those days must not return. I mean the principle of relying on ourselves and changing Kuwaiti citizens' position overall.

[Khayri] What do you mean by changing Kuwaiti citizens' position?

[Al-Mutawwa'] What it means is that the government will not do everything, great and small, while citizens sit around relaxing. This situation must change if we really have learned any lessons from the invasion.

[Khayri] What are the most important features of the Kuwaiti Government's economic policy after liberation?

[Al-Mutawwa'] The question now is: Do we still insist on keeping the government's role as it is, namely, its doing everything, great and small? Or do we want to adopt the Thatcherite principle, that is, specialization? Furthermore, do we want to support the private sector to the extent of spoiling it? Or is it sufficient to give it only what it needs?

I personally am convinced that the government should be relieved of the tasks that it used to carry out in the past and which can be carried out by other quarters.

The government's role should be that of a supervisor, not that of someone who performs the actual tasks in most fields. [passage omitted]

[Khayri] Are there any ideas concerning the martial law that is expected to be applied in Kuwait?

[Al-Mutawwa'] There has been a kind of overreaction to that phrase—martial law—especially since we have not yet arrived at a final decision about the required form after our return.

I personally do not pay much attention to the phrase itself. The priority should be to maintain security and stability for citizens inside and outside Kuwait. [passage omitted]

[Khayri] Are there any thoughts about restoring the parliament elected last year?

[Al-Mutawwa'] As far as I am concerned, I do not wish to see the same old parliament. It is illogical to ask someone elected in 1985 to return to his post. Kuwait before 2 August was different from Kuwait after 2 August, especially regarding the people who remained inside the country. They have undergone a very difficult experience. Perhaps their priorities are different from ours. If they are given the opportunity, they might tell opposition elements: Excuse me, but you know nothing about the conditions that we have experienced, and therefore our requirements.

I believe that elections will be held once we feel that we have met citizens' basic needs. The prime minister has spoken about returning to the 1962 constitution and parliamentary life.

[Khayri] Are there any radical changes in state policy other than specialization?

[Al-Mutawwa'] All policies pursued in the past will be reexamined, but their broad outlines will be determined after the appraisal phase.

We cannot regard what has happened as just a pause after which we will return to the past. [passage omitted]

[Khayri] Are there any possibilities of selling Kuwaiti shares in international companies and establishments?

[Al-Mutawwa'] That question should be addressed to the finance minister. I can say that a flotation would destroy the London, Tokyo, and New York stock markets.

At the same time, we must find a way that would enable us to fulfill our financial obligations, especially as we have had no income since the invasion. We rely primarily on oil as a source of our national income.

Besides, 400 oilfields are now burning in Kuwait. The costs of extinguishing them may exceed their oil revenue.

[Khayri] On what basis will the Kuwaiti Government award investment contracts to international companies in the future?

[Al-Mutawwa'] Many people confuse short- and long-term planning. In the short term our only concern will be to gather together what has been dispersed, and there are no contracts in this period. Meanwhile, the role of the force of international law should not be linked to the number of contracts awarded to the companies and establishments belonging to their states. We appreciate their efforts, but they are not mercenaries. The lives lost in the war cannot be compensated by a few contracts.

[Khayri] Is there any concern about the consequences of the Kuwaitis' bitter feelings toward some Arab nationalities?

[Al-Mutawwa'] We have won the international community's support. We have signed the Geneva Conventions, and we must adhere to thier provisions. We must not put ourselves in the position in which the Iraqis put themselves. We do not want to lose the international community's confidence in us. Such a stance puts any leadership in a very difficult position, as there should be a balance of wisdom, steadfastness, and understanding. It is difficult to combine these three elements.

It is impossible to suppress the feelings of Kuwaiti citizens who have seen someone of a different nationality conspiring with the occupier against their countries. We must take account of the fact that the Kuwaiti people have experienced the worst kind of occupation in the world. It was not a civil war, nor a matter of armies that speak foreign languages. The occupier was Arab, which is why the three elements in questions must be combined in order to overcome the crisis.

[Khayri] Has the Kuwaiti Government's support for the Palestinian cause after the crisis changed?

[Al-Mutawwa'] I do not believe that this support has changed. The cause is an Arab one and we will continue

to support it. What is regrettable is that it is the Palestinian leadership itself that has inflicted great damage on the cause, and it is the Palestinians' responsibility to resolve the problem.

The PLO has harmed the cause more than the PLO's enemies. The Palestinians must now seek a new leadership formula in order to secure the Arab states' support and reach the corridors of the Security Concil again. [passage omitted]

UK Premier Thanks Troops, Speaks of Future

LD0603100491 London PRESS ASSOCIATION in English 0924 GMT 6 Mar 91

[By Teilo Colley, PRESS ASSOCIATION reporter]

[Excerpts] The pride of "every single" Briton was today conveyed in person to the troops who helped free Kuwait by Prime Minister John Major. On a surprise visit to Kuwait by the first Western leader to visit front-line units since the Gulf war victory, he promised they would be coming home soon for some well-earned leave.

Addressing men of the 1st Armoured Division, Mr Major thanked them and told them they had made everyone proud. "There are 56 people back home all of whom are thorough experts in the Gulf War, all of whom know intimately what you've been doing," he told them. "I can promise you every single one of them is very proud of what you've done and I'm very grateful to you for doing it."

Mr Major was relaxed with the men, saying: "Let me just pass on two or three bits of information you just may vaguely be interested in. The first is we won't keep you out here a day longer than we have to. As soon as we can get you back home we will do so. I can't tell you precisely when that will be but I do give you my word there will be no undue delay about it."

Mr Major continued. "The second thing, which will be of no interest to you whatsoever I know, is there will be some leave when you get back home, though what you will do after you've had so long in the sun here I can't myself immediately imagine."

In more serious vein he referred to the imminent arrival from Baghdad of nine Britons held by the Iraqis. "The other piece of news I think you may be interested in... is that we will be getting a number of our prisoners-of-war back some time later on today."

Later he told BBC Television that Kuwait's security had been guaranteed. But he was less optimistic about security in the Gulf region generally. "I'm certainly optimistic about the security of Kuwait in the future. I think that can be guaranteed. I don't think Iraq is in a position to wage an offensive war. But there are still considerable difficulties in organising a regional settlement. There are many problems in the region. They all need addresing. There's a multifarious degree of different interests. It will be difficult to bring that together. But the chance of doing that now is greater than it has been for many years."

A last-minute decision to make the visit to shattered Kuwait City was taken just before Mr Major left for Moscow yesterday for talks with President Gorbachev.

Early today the prime minister arrived in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, in an RAF DC-10 before changing planes to fly on the Kuwait City. [passage omitted]

Mr Major's day-long visit to the emirate comes amid an international scramble for huge contracts to rebuild Kuwait. He said in an early-morning BBC World Service radio interview in Moscow: "Enormous damage has been done and a lot of life overall has been lost for the principle of liberating Kuwait City. So I am very pleased to go there to see it for myself, to see the embassy with the British ambassador firmly reinstalled, to judge what work needs to be done to reconstruct Kuwait City ... Above all, I want to take the opportunity of going to thank the troops ... and express to them our admiration for the way they performed."

Mr Major told reporters in Kuwait it was unlikely Britain would contribute to any standing army to police the Gulf Area. "If there is a standing army it is overwhelmingly likely to be an Arab army," he said.

Oman

Minister Praises U.S., Stresses 'New Arab Order'

NC0203200291 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 2 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Muscat, 2 Mar (WAKH)—Omani State Minister for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah has emphasized that the accomplishments of the war to liberate Kuwait have taken the Gulf region to the threshold of a long period of tranquillity and stability. He said that the war was very efficiently run, and that U.S. President George Bush's management of the war demonstrated a high competence in bringing the war to an end in a very short time.

In an interview with the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, the minister stressed that the political outcome of the war, not only the military outcome, must be taken into consideration. [passage omitted]

He added that the Sultanate is undertaking every effort made possible by its experience in the past two decades to put the Gulf and other Arab countries in a position to lead the new Arab order, with emphasis on the word "lead". He said we should be the leaders in that context, because we are more capable than others of having an insight into the future. [passage omitted]

Minister Yusuf Bin-'Alawi stressed that the Gulf countries can no longer perceive their future in an emotional or sentimental manner. He noted that the entire world

sympathizes with Arab countries at present, and that this is enough reason for us to build future Arab cooperation on a new basis.

He said we should not hesitate in establishing cooperation with the new world order and the countries leading it to develop a new Arab order that is harmonious with the world order. He said it is high time to settle chronic Arab issues, underlining that the Gulf war must be the last of all wars. He further explained that Arab people cannot afford to wage losing wars in the future, pointing out that future wars must be against ignorance and poverty, wars for development and solidarity, which will make Arabs positive and productive participants in the international household.

He explained that this is not intended to underestimate Arab problems, because we should be the generation that takes responsibility for resolving the current problems—especially the Palestinian issue.

The Omani minister stressed that the Palestinian issue is the central Arab issue. He said the Palestinians must play a central role in resolving this issue, alongside the other responsible Arab states, who should shoulder their responsibility for the sake of the Palestinians. He said these countries must seek ways to enable the Palestinians to find the way to solve their problems and realize their aspirations as Arabs within the Arab framework.

The minister noted that the Palestinian aspirations and destiny must be truly balanced by the Arab aspirations and destiny. He stressed that these aspirations must be within the limits of the possible and viable rather than the impossible. He explained that experience shows that we have been in pursuit of the impossible in this world. [passage omitted]

He expressed his belief that the Bush administration is most capable of understanding Arab feelings toward the Palestinian issue. He said this administration is capable of providing the utmost assistance in resolving the Palestinian issue. He stressed that Arabs should not waste this opportunity to resolve the Palestinian issue and avoid doing what they did in the past, when they wasted opportunities and later regretted it. [passage omitted]

In this context, he asserted that the Sultanate will employ the experience it gained in the past and the relations it established in building a new Arab order in a manner that serves the Arab people in general, and the Gulf citizens in particular. [passage omitted]

Government Lowers Crude Oil Price by 23 Percent

OW0403143091 Tokyo KYODO in English 1414 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Tokyo, March 4 KYODO—Oman on Monday notified Japanese oil interests of its decision to lower the supply price of crude oil for February shipment by 4.74 dollars or 23.35 percent from the previous month to 15.56 dollars per barrel, industry sources said.

The price of Qatar crude, which has been changed along with Omani crude according to a fixed formula, has been set at 16.31 dollars for February shipment, the sources said.

Italian Defense Minister Arrives in Muscat

NC0503215591 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1832 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Muscat, 5 Mar (WAKH)—Italian Defense Minister Virginio Rognoni arrived in Muscat this evening on a visit to Oman. He is carrying a message to Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from Italian President Francesco Cossiga.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Gives Speech on Islamic Values

LD0603002291 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Speech by King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz in Riyadh on 5 March—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: Prayers and peace be upon the most honorable prophets and messengers, our Prophet Muhammad. God's prayers and peace be upon him.

Brothers, I cannot add to what I have said on previous occasions; nevertheless, this occasion is great and is a bounty from God Almighty. We are all aware that we depend on God the Almighty day and night, always and forever. [passage omitted] We were aware that Iraq's victory over Iran [during the Iran-Iraq war] was almost impossible. We were sandwiched between two options, however: either to leave Iraq to be devoured by Iran, which would finish Iraq for good, or to stand by Iraq although we were aware of Saddam's principles and objectives in his country. We were reminded now and again that he had other objectives. I heard personally a few years ago that Saddam, during one of his talks to his people on the radio, said he will never be satisfied until he sees the Ba'th Party ruling all the Arab countries.

The Arab countries will not be governed by Iraq or by any principle or ideology contrary to the heavenly faith. I wish he had said something other than what he did. I wish that he had said instead that the Arab nation will not win a victory unless it adheres to the Book of God and the sunnah of His Prophet. I wish he had said this, but this was not the firm principle he adopted. In any case, he believed that adhering to such principles gave him the power to enable him to implement his wishes in any other country.

The Arab nation will not be victorious unless it adheres to the Book of God and the sunnah of His Prophet. Those of us who have read history will see that victory

was the ally of the Arab nation when it adopted the Islamic faith and when its intentions were pure and when the principal aim was to spread the Islamic faith. [passage omitted]

The Islamic faith is a collection of all the principles and aims which man could ever wish for in his life so long as he exists in this world. Islam protected peoples' personal rights and public rights; it gave them strength at a time when the use of force was necessary.

As I have always said, we do not interfere in anyone's affairs unless we are asked or if we see that any Arab country wants to seek advice or wants guidance. It then becomes our duty to make whatever effort is needed to explain matters as far as the Islamic nation is concerned. We all know what happened in past years regarding the colonization of the Islamic nation, whether this colonialism took place in the Arab countries or Africa or Asia or any other place. It occurred because the will to live and to gather the luxuries of life was stronger than adherence to the faith. The Islamic faith will prevail until the day of judgement, God willing.

In terms of this country, it will remain forever, God willing, attached to Book of God and the sunnah of His Prophet in all its affairs, private and public, and in relation to any matter. The grace of God Almighty made this country and its people for the service of Islam and Muslims, and at the service of the K'abah and holy Mecca, and the mosque of His Prophet in Medina. Therefore, the nature of this country and the duties of its people differ from any other country.

On this basis, we will not borrow any principles regulating social life, new matters which are useful to Islam and Muslims, except on the condition that they are not at variance with what God made clear in His dear Book and what His messenger the generous Prophet, the wise caliphs, and the imams of the Muslims made clear. Therefore, we disregard those who say that this country is backward. Very regrettably some Arab countries and others say we are backward. Why are we backward? Because we hold onto God's Book and the sunnah of His Prophet? We are proud of this. [passage omitted]

All over the world, everywhere, we can see mosques being built, Islamic libraries being built, the Islamic call spreading. I believe that, if this indicates anything, it is strong proof that the world has tried all the principles and the regulations pertaining to the private and public life of man, and that some have realized that Islam is a substantial force for good, because it brings together the issues of this world and the hereafter. The man who wants good in this life and in the hereafter should hold onto God's Book and the sunnah of His Prophet. [passage omitted]

The momentous events of these past months were carried out by a country which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, in particular, had supported. I repeat again that this support for Iraq was not based on wanting Iraq to triumph over Iran. We knew this from our wide experience, and we were sure of this in a way that needs no more clarification. Iran is a neighboring country with which we have many ties; besides, Iran's proximity to the Gulf countries in particular and the one Gulf brings us together.

People know Iraq and the history of those who ruled Iraq in the past; people know its Islamic history and the greatness of Islam, and they know about the Muslims in Iraq. Circumstances changed, however, and issues narrowed until the regime in Iraq, as we have now seen, began to want to impose certain principles and to control its brothers and to believe that the Armed Forces it had built up over many years was the criteria for victory, irrespective of all other things. We tried [to help] when the crisis between Kuwait and Iraq became more acute; we tried in one way or another. The last attempt, as you know, was the meeting in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia when we were convinced that they were meeting in a country which respects all. They then agreed to meet in Baghdad to solve their problems. We were just as surprised as you and the whole world to find out that Kuwait had been invaded after midnight. We had obtained pledges from the Iraqi president that he would respect Kuwait and that, if he had any claims, Kuwait was ready to negotiate with Iraq on the basis of legitimate right.

I had full knowledge of this. My contacts with Saddam and with His Highness the Amir Shaykh Jabir were continuous. There was no conflict over the words, but the implementation changed in a matter of moments. I will now conclude these few words, even though I would like to dwell on this at length, but I believe that I have already touched on this subject on several occasions and others have also talked about it.

Today we have seen what happened and how right has triumphed and wrong was deterred. This is one of the God's great blessings. If we were to measure things by the standards of military preparations, we would see that Iraq's military preparations were enormous. We have established beyond any doubt that the aid he was receiving from the Kingdom, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates was not intended for rebuilding or defending Iraq but for preparing to invade the Gulf states.

On this occasion, I would not be divulging a secret if I quoted what His Highness the Amir Jabir said to me yesterday. His Highness Amir Jabir said: When we were at the Baghdad conference, I was talking to Saddam Husayn. His Highness Amir Jabir said to Saddam: I invited you to visit Kuwait. Time has passed and you have not visited Kuwait. The amir said that Saddam's reply to him was: No, I will visit you during the coming months. His Highness Amir Jabir said: I said to Saddam, as a matter of (?courtesy) we have to know when so that we can do our duty. Saddam said: There is no need. I will visit you and I will surprise you with my visit. [sentence indistinct] The Amir Jabir said: I took the words as a fraternal conversation believing that there was no

problem between Kuwait and Iraq. If it was a question of borders, we had already told him that if he wanted to appoint any of our Arab brothers—from any Arab country or Islamic country—we were ready. We said: If you have any rights they will be recognized, and if we have any claims we will state them. I think this was just and fair.

I told His Highness Amir Jabir and I also told Saddam: If you do not want to embarass the Arabs over a matter like this, there is the International Court of Justice. We can all go to it together and accept what is decided from the international point of view. Kuwait did not refuse. One of the strange things at the time was that, after Saddam attacked Kuwait after midnight—and I repeat this again and again—I tried to contact him then. I was told that he was away from the phone and at a location where there was no telephone. Is it reasonable for a country to attack another when its president is without a telephone? I realized that he did not want to talk to me.

The following morning at about 1000, he spoke to me personally. Naturally my situation made him feel uncomfortable. He said: Let us not speak on the telephone; perhaps it will not achieve its purpose and will not clarify matters; I will send my deputy to explain matters to you. Matters had reached the point where Iraqi forces had entered Kuwait. I said, at any rate, I will wait for your deputy. Saddam's deputy came and His Highness Amir 'Abdallah was present. I expected the Iraqi vice president, at least, to empower the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to attempt to solve the problem by peaceful means and to confirm to the Kingdom that he [Saddam Husayn] was ready to withdraw to the recognized borders leading from Kuwait to Iraq and those from Kuwait going to Iraq, which we and our brothers recognize and you also know. I thought that he would agree to the withdrawal of all his forces to beyond the entry points, to where they used to be. On the contrary, the Iraqi vice president told me: I came as an envoy of Saddam to tell you that Kuwait is part of Iraq and this part has returned to its origin. I found such talk strange and said do you have anything else to say? He said: No, I do not.

We have known Iraq for well over 250 years and Iraq has never occupied a front in these places or molested Kuwait. [passage omitted] I told him this and I also said that, according to the will of Ahmad Hasan al-Bakr and Saddam Husayn, you concluded the agreement between yourself and Kuwait. This agreement states clearly your recognition of the State of Kuwait. Afterward, you exchanged diplomatic relations. Therefore, you were not forced to do anything, and you did not protest anything. Perhaps those before you had specific aims or ambitions, and you solved matters in this way. The Kuwaitis, the Saudis, and anyone from the Gulf was satisfied, because matters were solved amicably. Receptions were held and diplomatic relations were established. The documents were lodged with the international organizations and at the Arab League. They were announced officially and eminent people and lowly people learned about them.

How can you say now that Kuwait is part of Iraq? If he wants partition, Mosul is not part of Iraq. Iraq is Basra and Baghdad, that is all. We do not want, however, to enter into other things. As to the question of us accepting that Kuwait is part of Iraq and that is has reverted to its origin, you are out of line. You, the vice president are out of line; you will have to convince me. The man's reply was brief. He said: I do not have anything to say to clarify what I have already said. Saddam says that Kuwait is part of Iraq and that it has reverted to its natural position. I have nothing else to say.

I realized that discussion and debate in this connection was futile. We all know that Saddam's doors were entered by Arab and Islamic leaders as well as European and U.S. leaders and people from every corner of the world in an attempt to explain the mistake to Saddam and try to ward off harm and make him leave Kuwait.

It was even said to him frankly: If you withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally, and the situation in Kuwait returns to normal, we guarantee that you will not be attacked in Iraq. I believe that even international representatives and organizations did not leave Saddam's room. But he rejected all this categorically.

Many Arab leaders and prominent non-Arab leaders came to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and spoke to me and told me that Saddam said he will meet Fahd and solve the problem one way or another. He said all this openly on television. My answer to Arab and non-Arab leaders who knocked at this door was that I know Saddam, and I realize that Saddam was only interested in the media aspects—no more, no less—and this applied to all who came to Baghdad. I realized this because I have known Saddam since 1975. My answer was definite. I said to the person speaking to me: I do not object if this solves the problem, but to be sure, go to Saddam and bring me a signed letter from Saddam saying that he will withdraw from Kuwait unconditionally and that the 1963 agreement [with Kuwait] remains in force. Then it will be possible for me to meet Saddam to remedy the matters which may have created these problems. [passage omitted]

None of them came up with a result, however. The result Saddam wanted was to show them on television begging to him in Baghdad, and nothing more. Saddam saw them for a minute or two and then passed them onto some of his officials. Many brothers reproached me. Some of them may have said that I was not interested in solving the problem, but I told them that I was the only one who was interested in the problem, and that this country, its people, and government cared deeply about solving this problem peacefully. [passage omitted] In the end they realized what I was saying—that in reality and in truth Saddam was isolated.

With the utmost regret, I must say with bitterness, as far as some of our brothers in the Arab countries who joined Saddam's ranks are concerned—I do not know, and I

cannot say more—perhaps they thought they could convince Saddam by choosing the path of merging with Saddam. I wish that the merger had resulted in something, that they had convinced Saddam so that Saddam could have returned to the world of reality, logic, and the possible. They nonetheless continued their relations with Saddam, one way or another. They say that they thought that the problem could be solved in their own hands. In the end they did not achieve anything, and I think that now they have fully realized that the man just wanted to swallow Kuwait and was planning to swallow part of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia too.

We realized this fact in just a few days, and perhaps many brothers commented on the fact that on 2 August 1990 no statement was issued by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, to the extent that some who wanted to create a problem between Kuwait and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia said, either in newspapers or in Western or other countries, that this was perhaps a conspiracy between Saddam and Saudi Arabia to share Kuwait between them. Some feeble-minded people said this, but on 2 August 1990 we were thinking long term: What should we do? When we reached a decision on 3 August 1990, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia officially announced that it wanted the Arab homeland, the Islamic homeland, and all friendly states to give whatever assistance they could to the Saudi military forces. [passage omitted] We did not lose anything, and [the forces of] these friendly states, each one of them, will return to its own country. This is something that has been officially agreed on, and we have finally finished with that.

We hope that what has happened will be a lesson and we should not apologize with sweet words.

It has happened at various periods of time that some Arab countries attacked other Arab countries, and so forth. We are now within an Arab League. It is assumed that the Arab League is a framework that comprises all the Arab regimes with mutual commitment to amicable discussion, and each of us must abide by whatever is agreed upon, and avert the evil of sedition. Regrettably, however, it does happen at times. It has happened now, and we hope that it will be a lesson to all our brothers in the Arab League.

We support the existence of the Arab League; we support it as a good framework, and compulsory framework on whoever deviates from the agreed-upon and signed matters that all members must be unanimous on stopping the deviator. This is the duty and this is what our religion orders us to do.

First of all I congratulate His Highness Amir Jabir, his government, and the people of Kuwait in general as God Almighty has restored matters to their normal course. I also congratulate the Saudi forces in their various positions, at the fore of which are the National Guard, the Army, and the security forces. I also thank all who contributed to us and helped us.

Saddam was a man who prepared on a grand scale and has spent thousands of millions to attack his brothers. The Almighty God wanted to show him, however, that the shortest way is the way of truth. He is now suffering inside what all of us were expecting.

We all heard yesterday, the day before yesterday, and today about the events inside Iraq. He has actually brought these events on himself.

I come back once again and say that God has bestowed on this country, its people and government, his bounty by placing it at the service of the holy house of God and holy Mecca and Medina and the mosque of the Prophet, God's prayers and peace be upon him.

We cannot, God willing, and will not submit to anything or submit to any principle and will not accept any principle which is at variance with the Islamic faith, be it concerning the state affairs from the head of the state to the last official, or concerning public or private matters. We did not and will not in any case accept to introduce something, however useful it is said to be, which is at variance with the Book of God and with the practice of His messenger.

We will not accept any principles that are at variance with the Islamic religion, whether they concern state affairs, from the head of state to any citizen, or in public or private affairs. We shall not in any case ('espouse) any matters, no matter how useful it is said they are, which are in variance with the Book of God and the sunnah of His prophet. [passage omitted]

It is one of God's blessings, thanks be to Him, that this country is in need of no one. We are proud that we have given huge sums—thanks be to God, and this will be fully published—to all the Islamic, Arab, African, and Asian countries. Yes, we are perhaps the last possible people to attempt to make this appear as rendering a favor, but with great regret there has been much talk about the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia as having given nothing to other countries. Matters will be issued which will make clear what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia had provided. We have given sums which perhaps do not come to mind [words indistinct].

As for what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia provided its people, its people realize this, and I believe that it is the first state that, when God bestowed good upon it, it did not spare its people anything, not from the agricultural point of view, nor from the industrial point of view, nor from the reconstruction point of view, nor from the point of view of public services of all types and forms. It spent thousands of billions [currency not given] for the sake of the comfort of the Saudi citizens [words indistinct].

Thanks be to God, we abide in all our affairs—private and public affairs. The state behaves in relation to small and big matters only after they are brought before the shari'a courts and are considered from the shari'a point of view. Neither the head of state, nor the crown prince,

nor the small or big official has any power to deviate from the Book of God Almighty and the sunnah of His Prophet.

We have ahead of us a clear path, the path of good, the path of contentment, the path of [words indistinct] world and doomsday. Thus, some writers [words indistinct], even from the Arab countries or [words indistinct] that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is a backward country. How is it backward? Is it backward in that it (?monitors) any attack or anything which it does not see as of any good for humanity? By God, we are not concerned by anyone under any circumstances. We are proceeding along a straight path. [passage omitted]

As for what the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia gives to its Muslim brothers, whether in the Arab or non-Arab countries, it has undertaken projects for Muslims in countries which are not Muslim. We, however, consider this one of the duties that we must fulfill. We are a country that has never harmed anyone, interfered in anyone's affairs, created a problem for anyone, or conspired against anyone. [passage omitted] Our country has many brothers from the Arab countries. We welcome them in every way, but we also request them to straighten their lot and not to interfere in what does not concern them. [passage omitted]

We in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia have a great duty to do what we can to enlighten, and, thank God, we now have universities that specialize in these matters. As far as I know, the Islamic University in Medina has perhaps more than 80 nationalities from all over the world, from Europe, America, Asia, Spain, Africa, and everywhere in the world. [passage omitted] I pray to God Almighty that this problem ends; it has in fact ended with the (?triumph) of right. [words indistinct] Under no circumstances do we desire anything of the people of Iraq except for them to rally around the country itself, but to do so along the straight path. [words indistinct]

The people of Iraq are an Arab people, and the end of every tyrant in the land of the Arabs is known and certain. Thanks be to God for returning Kuwait to its natural situation, and this is a lesson and allusion from God Almighty to the people of Kuwait and the people of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia that we should hold on fast to the Book and the Sunnah. They are the best guides; in them are contained the goods of earth and the hereafter. [passage omitted]

Source Denies Reports of Palestinian Executions

LD0503204391 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] In a statement to SPA today, a responsible source said that, quoting its correspondent, Tehran Radio claimed in its Arabic bulletin yesterday—Monday—that Saudi authorities had executed a number of Palestinians who are resident in Saudi Arabia on charges of possessing arms and explosives.

The source added: This report is devoid of truth both in part and in whole, and has absolutely no foundation. It comes as part of a series of fabrications that we have noticed Tehran Radio has started to broadcast again, for obvious and exposed reasons.

The source concluded his statement by saying: While denying the truthfulness of this fabricated report, we warn against the folly of the continued fabrication of objectionable and unwelcome lies by Tehran Radio.

Kuwaiti, Saudi Rulers Exchange Greetings

LD0503125591 Riyadh SPA in English 1219 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Riyadh, March 5, SPA—Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti emir, has expressed appreciation for the pioneering role played by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in the liberation of Kuwait from the yoke of the Iraqi occupation. The Kuwaiti people will never forget your noble stand, said Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah in a cable he sent to custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd bin-'Abd-Al-'Aziz last night.

The measures you have taken to successfully resolve the crisis of Kuwait have provided a clear evidence for the existing fraternal relations between the Kingdom and Kuwait, he said. Highlighting the wise and decisive steps taken by the Saudi monarch vis-a-vis the Arab Gulf crisis, the Kuwait amir described King Fahd as a veteran statesman.

For his part, King Fahd, in a cable of reply, expressed appreciation for the heartfelt feelings spelled out by the Kuwaiti amir. King Fahd saluted the courageous stand of the Kuwaiti people and expressed delight over the liberation of Kuwait.

We are hopeful that peace and security will prevail in the Arab Gulf region, added King Fahd.

UK Prime Minister Stops Briefly in Dhahran

LD0603081191 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 0600 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Excerpts] His excellency the British prime minister, Mr. John Major, and the accompanying delegation, early this morning left Dhahran international airport after a short stopover. [passage omitted] His excellency the British prime minister arrived in Dhahran earlier today at dawn on his way to Kuwait.

Defense Minister Meets Italian Counterpart

LD0503142191 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 5 Mar (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister and minister of defense, aviation, and the inspector general, received this afternoon in his office

His Excellency the Italian minister of defense, Virginio Rognoni, and his accompanying delegation. [passage omitted]

During the audience, views were exchanged on issues of common interest. The Italian defense minister arrived in Riyadh earlier today and was welcomed at the aiport by His Excellency the deputy minister for defense and military affairs and the Italian ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Papers Comment on Gulf Security, Iraq

LD0603140391 Riyadh SPA in English 1248 GMT 6 Mar 91

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Riyadh, March 6, SPA—Saudi papers today devoted their editorials to comment on the security situation in the Arab Gulf region following the liberation of Kuwait from the vicious Iraqi occupation and the developments inside Iraq.

Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH highlighted today the widespread anger and resentment expressed by Iraqi citizens vis-a-vis Saddam Husayn's bloody regime. Many Iraqi citizens, said the paper, were out to rid themselves once and for all, from Saddam's pernicious grip.

That viscious regime was a veritable tragedy that had caused the Iraqi people untold harm and suffering.

Not only are the indignant Iraqis clamouring for Saddam Husayn's head, but are also vehemently insisting on the Ba'ath party's swift debacle, the papers said editorially.

'UKAZ of Jeddah, commenting on the final statement issued at the conclusion of the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] foreign ministers' conference, makes it abundantly clear that the upshot of the GCC deliberations was a clear-cut and unequivocal support for full implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolutions on the Gulf war.

In particular, the GCC foreign ministers' conference stressed the paramount importance of bringing about an unshakable state of peace and stability throughout the Middle East, and put forward the necessary bases for achieving this all-important aim, it said.

Jeddah-based AL-BILAD daily pointed out that the Iraqi brutal conquest of Kuwait would go down in history as the final root cause that forced Iraq's vicious tyrant, Saddam Husayn, to bow down in abject submission to the unwavering dictates of the international community so clearly mirrored in international law. The paper added that it was patently clear to all right-thinking people that Saddam Husayn would not only suffer an ignominous defeat but would also, in the process, prove a dead loss to himself and to all his hirelings, everywhere.

AL-BILAD went on to say that the Iraqi people, in common with peoples the world over, had an inalienable right to peace, stability and gracious living.

The paper concluded its statement by adding that deliverance was at hand, and that the many tribulations suffered would soon be at an end.

Yemen

Opposition Publishes Policy Statement

PM0103112091 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 27 Feb-5 Mar 91 pp 26-27

["Statement by Yemeni Opposition in Arab Countries and Europe"]

[Text] Out of our belief in the justness of the cause to which the Yemenis have devoted themselves, to defend it by all possible means and to establish it as a sublime human objective, namely, the cause of democracy, the constitution, and freedom from the ugly rule of the military, which have driven Yemen into successive disasters;

And out of loyalty to Yemen's martyrs who have fallen, having taken a heroic, manly, and honorable stand in defense of the nation against the oppression and tyranny of its rulers and in support of right, as reflected in the elevation of the word of Almighty God and the adoption of His magnanimous law as a foundation for the country's constitution under a just republican system based on justice, security, equal rights and duties, unrestricted public freedoms, and the guaranteed right of every citizen to exercise democracy in action, thought, and expression, as announced by the 26 September revolution;

And proceeding from the historic responsibility which obliges Yemen's sons to resist the oppression, corruption, tyranny, and deviation which have become characteristic of the existing regime in Yemen, where citizens are denied their their rights and security and where public rights represented by state funds, properties, and oil and customs revenues are spent outside the boundaries of the public budget without any control;

And in view of the new Arab and international situation resulting from the Iraqi military invasion of Kuwait and the subsequent eviction of the Kuwaiti people and hundreds of thousands of Muslim workers, including over 30,000 Yemenis, as well as half a million Yemeni expatriates who have returned from Saudi territory at the behest of Yemeni Embassy employees with a view to creating a crisis of trust in relations between the two fraternal countries;

And in view of the references by the world media to the Yemeni political leadership's involvement in the conspiracy against Kuwait's security and sovereignty and against the security and safety of the region's states, by shielding and defending the Iraqi invasion in Arab,

Islamic, and international forums in return for generous financial grants and payments and promises of further payments to Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the pillars of his sectarian regime;

And in view of the involvement of a number of officials and their repressive organs in organizing hostile demonstrations in the streets of Yemeni cities—demonstrations that have caused much material damage to buildings belonging to fraternal states such as the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, as well as the attacks on civilians and properties belonging to the two fraternal states in the capital, Sanaa;

While condemning the the Yemeni Government's official position and its disregard for the demands of higher Arab interests and the interests of the Yemeni people's sons inside and outside the country, the Yemeni opposition draws attention to the negative and devastating effects that the policy of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and his dictatorial regime in Sanaa has inflicted on the Yemeni citizens working in the Gulf Cooperation Council states and on the interests they have secured abroad over several decades. The opposition also highlights the heavy losses and great damage that 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's policy has inflicted on the Yemeni economy itself, as indicated by the following:

—Prices of the essential foodstuffs have risen, and many items have disappeared;

—Sanaa University has been unable to carry out its sublime mission as a result of its budget's suspension, shouldered by the Kuwaiti Government since its establishment. Similarly, the Egyptian professors have not returned, because the State of Kuwait used to pay their salaries;

—Kuwait Hospital in Sanaa has stopped providing medical supplies and specialized doctors owing to the suspension of the budget provided by the State of Kuwait since its establishment;

—Teaching has been suspended in many schools and institutions owing to their transformation into shelter centers for innocent workers returning from Saudi Arabia and the Gulf. 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has failed to provide them with minimum levels of sustenance, services, and job opportunities. The state media have reported statements by the lieutenant general inciting workers to leave their jobs and return to their homeland, where the lieutenant general's prosperity awaited them...

For all these reasons, and for others which it is not yet time to reveal, the Yemenis, while experiencing the great tragedy caused by a corrupt military regime, have decided to question the regime, without any indulgence or delay, about the excesses that it has committed against Yemen and the Yemenis, and to urge the Yemeni masses to topple it, this being a legitimate right guaranteed to them by the rules, laws, the stipulations of the Constitution and the requirements of the magnanimous Islamic shari'a.

Yemeni citizens believe that the national opposition's appeal to correct Yemeni internal and foreign policy is the first step in creating a political climate that will allow the people to elect a legitimate government under the supervision of human rights committees and neutral parties comprising ulema, tribal chiefs, and thinkers independent of the authorities. This is envisioned after the election of a transitional government agreed to by influential figures. Because the existing regime in Yemen is against the Islamic shari'a, barters with the nation's interests, and conspires against the safety of the homeland and citizens, destroying public freedoms, violating the Constitution, betraying trust, interfering with Yemen's resources and wasting them on its supporters and agents, the national opposition in Yemen demands the removal of 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and the pillars of his regime. It also demands the trial of those that have violated the Constitution and the law, in preparation for holding general elections. In response to the wish of many of our Yemeni brothers, the Yemeni national opposition has decided to adopt a declared position in which it will define its short-term and long-term objectives and to prepare for a national conference to be attended by all the good forces' interests in recent developments on the Yemeni, Arab, and international scene. The first issues to be discussed by the participants include the following:

—The draft national action charter;

—The procedural and practical steps for the announcement of organizational formations;

Affirming adherence and commitment to the resolutions adopted by the Yemeni tribes' solidarity conference held in Rabi' al-Thani 1411 Hegira [October/November 1990] in the al-Hadabah area of Barat Governorate in the Yemeni Republic, and their application to all Yemeni tribes;

—Assigning a group of 'ulema and specialists to scrutinize the clauses of the unity constitution and to cleanse it of all contradictions and blemishes that conflict with the Islamic shari'a and adhering to the amendments called for by a group of senior Yemeni 'ulema and judges and which are expressed in their declared views and publications.

While seeking to remove the oppressive regime from our country, relying on the heroic Yemeni people and their full and absolute right to use every legitimate means to bring about the required change that will fulfill the Muslim Yemeni people's needs, the unified Yemeni opposition declares that it and a number of organizations and parties operating inside the country and in the countries where Yemeni expatriates live are agreed on its aims and principles. A preparatory committee has been formed to make urgent contacts with all national elements inside and outside the countries to determine a

suitable venue and date for the first national conference. We will work to guarantee the participation of the elements that can, with God's help, offer efforts, sacrifice, and steadfastness on the road to freedom, stability, and progress in Yemen.

10 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira/24 February 1991.

For the preparatory committee: 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-Majid al-Asnaj, Ahmad Humayd al-Habari, Judge Muhammad 'Abd-al-Hadi al-'Ujayl, Dr. Muslih Yahya al-Sa'id, Riyad Husayn al-Qadi, Colonel 'Abdallah 'Abd-al-'Alim, Engineer Muhammad 'Abd-al-Rab al-Wasabi, Hadi Salih al-Nahdi, Yahya Salih al-Nahami, Muhammad al-'Ubaydi, 'Abd-Rabbuh Salim al-Bidani, Sadiq Husayn al-Yafi'i, 'Abdallah al-Abyad, al-Khadr Salim 'Awad al-'Awdhali, Muhammad 'Amir al-Zubayri.

Government Supports Vietnamese Cambodia Stance

BK0503073591 Hanoi VNA in English 0702 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Hanoi VNA March 5—"The Government of the Republic of Yemen fully supports the February 28 1991 statement on the Cambodian issue of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry", said Ahmed D.A. Adiz [name as received], deputy foreign minister of Yemen.

Speaking to Vietnamese Ambassador to Yemen Tran Nhu Lich on March 3, the Yemeni diplomat held that it is urgent now to stop foreign military aid to the Cambodian factions and encourage them to self-restrain for a ceacefire. Yemen's unswerving stance on a solution to the Cambodian issue is that the internal questions of Cambodia must be settled by the Cambodians themselves, not by foreigners, he stressed.

'Aziz Letter to UN on Return of Kuwaiti Assets

NC0503162491 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent a letter to the UN Security Council president and the UN secretary general today. Following is the text of the letter:

Your Excellency, I have the honor to inform you that in implementation of its acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 686 of 1991, and in accordance with what I have said in my letter to Your Excellency on 3 March, the Iraqi Government has decided to return the following possessions which the Iraqi authorities had seized after 2 August 1990:

1. Quantities of gold.
2. Quantities of Kuwaiti banknotes.
3. The museum's stocks.
4. The civilian aircraft.

The competent Iraqi parties are prepared to hand over those possessions as soon as possible. We hope Your Excellency will inform us of the executive measures related to handing these things over.

With regards.

[Signed] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister of the Republic of Iraq
[Dated]Baghdad, 5 March

Saddam, RCC Issue Orders, Decisions 5 Mar

Increased Quotas for Rationed Items

NC0503153991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn today met with Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih. His excellency the president ordered the ministry to draw up a plan to increase citizens' quotas for materials prescribed in the ration cards. In implementation of the orders of President leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, it was decided as a first step to increase the quotas for babies' milk, sugar, and soap by 25 percent as of today.

The ministry is studying the possibility of increasing quotas of other materials and will announce this in due course.

Decisions Regarding Kuwait Rescinded

NC0503163591 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Mar (INA)—A decision was issued by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] today, rescinding all decisions made by the RCC since 2 August 1990 regarding Kuwait. Following is the text of the decision:

In harmony with the Iraqi Government's approval of Security Council Resolution 686 of 1991 and its previous announcement accepting the other Council resolutions, the RCC has decided the following on the basis of the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution:

1. To regard all the RCC decisions issued since 2 August 1990 related to Kuwait as rescinded.
2. All laws, decisions, regulations, instructions, directives, and measures issued in accordance with the RCC decisions referred to in Paragraph 1 above and the effects resulting from them will be rescinded.
3. No provision contradicting this decision will be effective.
4. This decision shall be published in the official gazette and will be implemented effective 3 March [as received].
5. The pertinent ministries and departments will assume responsibility for implementing this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman.

Collection of Utility Fees Suspended

NC0503203291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2003 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Decision issued by the Revolution Command Council—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Revolution Command Council [RCC] decision No. 56, dated 17 Sha'ban, 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 5 March 1991.

Decision: In view of the circumstances through which Iraq has passed and the effects of these circumstances, and based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. The collection of installment payments on the Iraqi Bank loan [as heard] and of water, electricity, and telephone fees shall be suspended until further notice.
2. The decision shall be published in the official gazette and become effective on the date of its issuance.
3. The pertinent ministers and departments shall assume responsibility for implementing the decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Interior Minister Replaced

NC0603115291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1137 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Republican Decree No. 610]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Based on Paragraph D of Article 58 of the Constitution, we decree the following:

1. Interior Minister Samir Muhammad 'Abd-al-Wahab shall be relieved of his post so that he can devote his efforts to party activity.

2. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid shall be appointed minister of interior.

Ministers and concerned quarters shall implement this decree.

[Dated] Baghdad, 17 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 5 March 1991.
[Signed] Saddam Husayn, president of the Republic

Local Government Ministry Eliminated

NC0603115791 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1134 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Decision No. 57 issued by the Iraqi Revolution Command Council on 5 March; place not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate.

The Revolution Command Council [RCC];

Decision No. 57 issued on 17 Sha'ban 1411 hegira, corresponding to 5 March 1991.

Proceeding from Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

First, the Ministry of Local Government created by RCC Decision No. 901 of 16 July 1979 is cancelled.

Second, RCC Decision No. 989 of 16 July 1979 is cancelled.

Third, all departments and administrative and organizational bodies belonging to the cancelled Ministry of Local Government will be re-registered under the Interior Ministry, along with all its staff, commitments, and rights.

Fourth, this decision will be published in the official newspaper and goes into effect on the day of its publication.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, RCC chairman

Salaries of Military Personnel Raised

NC0603121991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1142 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Decision No. 59 issued by the Revolution Command Council [RCC] on 18 Sha'ban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 6 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. In view of the great heroic role of our valiant armed forces in the mother of battles and in protecting Iraq, each unit according to its own merits and capabilities; and in order to provide a happy life for our valiant Army and our mujahid Armed Forces; and based on the provisions of Paragraph A of Article 42 of the Constitution, the RCC has decided the following:

1. The Republican Guard personnel and the volunteers of the special presidential guards shall be allocated flat appropriations of 100 dinars per month in addition to their current salaries;
2. The volunteers of the Armed Forces, the Internal Security Forces, and special agencies not mentioned in the first article of this decision shall be given a flat monthly appropriations of 50 dinars in addition to their current salaries;
3. Compulsory military service conscripts and reservists shall be given a flat appropriations of 25 dinars per month, wherever they may be in the Armed Forces;
4. The aforementioned appropriations shall be called Mother of Battles appropritions;
5. This decision shall be published in the official gazette and be effective as of 1 March 1991; and
6. The ministers concerned and relevant authorities shall implement this decision.

[Signed] Saddam Husayn, chairman of the RCC

Arrival of First Iraqi POW's in Baghdad Reported

NC0603121291 Paris AFP in English 1207 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, March 6 (AFP)—A first batch of Iraqi prisoners of war arrived at Baghdad airport Wednesday, aboard civilian aircraft that then flew out the remaining 35 allied captives held by Iraq, an AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE reporter saw. The planes carried 294 Iraqi prisoners, according to officials of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

One of the aircraft then left with the 35 allied prisoners, released Tuesday, that Iraq said were the last in its hands. It headed for Saudi Arabia, they said.

Army Seeks To Exchange Missing Newsmen for POW's

LD0503154891 Paris Domestic Service in French 1200 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Several Western journalists who were attempting to reach Basra in the south of Iraq have been missing since Sunday [3 March]. There is no news of them. Alain Menargues is not far away. He is at Safwan in Iraq, on the road to Basra:

[Menargues] We are holding a group of French journalists. We will exchange them for prisoners of war, an Iraqi Army officer told me at the first Iraqi checkpoint some 15 km north of the village of Safwan. However, the officer did not wish to specify the number of journalists he was holding. According to one account, about 20 French, Italian, U.S. and British journalists attempted to reach Basra on Sunday and Monday at a time when units of the Republican Guard were attempting to retake the town from the rebels. Since then we have had no further news of them and the Iraqi officer's words are the first. [passage omitted]

According to the French Foreign Ministry, there are 15 French people out of the 26 Western journalists of whom there has been no news since Sunday.

International Newsmen Urge Colleagues' Release

AU0603113691 Paris AFP in English 1120 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Brussels, March 6 (AFP)—The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) called here Wednesday for urgent action by Gulf governments on behalf of at least 25 journalists who disappeared in southern Iraq on Sunday and Monday [4 and 5 March]. The federation urged United Nations agencies and the international trade union movement to "demand that all governments in the Gulf region take urgent action to protect the safety" of the journalists.

IFJ general secretary Aidan White said in a statement: "All parties to the Gulf conflict must ensure that these journalists are found and returned safely."

The missing journalists, who include 15 French nationals and journalists working for U.S., British and Italian news organisations, disappeared while heading in various groups from Kuwait to Basra, reportedly to investigate a rebellion against the Iraqi government.

The Brussels-based IFJ said it was also disturbed by reports that Iraqi soldiers had fired on the car of a group of Spanish journalists.

In a separate statement, the federation urged IFJ members around the world to send protests to Iranian and Syrian representatives in their countries against the continued detention of two journalists in Lebanon.

It said Terry Anderson, bureau chief of ASSOCIATED PRESS and John McCarthy, a television reporter with British-based World Television News, were being held in "unspeakable conditions" somewhere in Lebanon. Mr. Anderson was taken hostage six years ago, one year before Mr. McCarthy.

The Brussels-based IFJ represents 200,000 journalists around the world.

Opposition Claims Missing Journalists Given Asylum

LD0603145591 Paris Domestic Service in French 1400 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] An Iraqi opposition group, the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, says it has granted asylum to 21 journalists reported missing in southern Iraq. In a communique published in Geneva, the council points out that some of these journalists were injured when their group was caught in firing between soldiers faithful to Saddam Husayn and resistance fighters but that they are now all in good health and ready to resume their professional activities as soon as conditions permit, the communique says.

The communique mentions 21 journalists, but at least 25 and perhaps even 28 have disappeared in southern Iraq. So what has happened to the others? The council adds that some of them may have been taken prisoner or killed by the Iraqi Government Army and that others may have fled into the desert. The communique also points out that the Iraqi Government has ordered the arrest and execution of any foreigner entering the country without the appropriate documents.

Oil Ministry Begins 'Large-Scale' Reconstruction

NC0603164191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 6 Mar 91

[From the "Five O'Clock Journal" program]

[Text] The Oil Ministry has mobilized its personnel and experts to engage in reconstruction following the devastation wrought by the aggressive war of the Western alliance against Iraq.

An official Oil Ministry source said the damage assessment committee has started work at oil refineries and has drawn up a plan of action and secured the requisite cadres for reconstruction. He added: We have embarked on a large-scale rehabilitation effort to restore buildings, pipes and pipelines, and all damaged reservoirs to make oil derivatives available for local consumption within a month.

All Classes Postponed Until Further Notice

NC0603160191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Statement by the Iraqi Education Ministry on 6 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Further to our statement issued on 14 Sh'aban 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 2 March 1991, it has been decided to postpone until further notice classes at all schools at all levels throughout the country. These classes were scheduled to resume on Saturday, 9 March 1991. This is in order to organize transport operations and to provide other necessary requirements. The teachers in the educational sector should comply with this regulation.

Ibrahim Conveys Saddam's Greetings to Wasit Women

NC0503205491 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1911 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] 'Izzat Ibrahim, deputy chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC], has conveyed the greetings of leader President Saddam Husayn to the glorious Iraqi women in Wasit Province and his excellency's admiration for their unlimited contribution to the battle of the mother of battles.

During his visit today to the headquarters of the general federation of Iraqi women in Wasit Province and his meeting with the comrade federation leader and members, Ibrahim said that our great victory in the immortal

battle of the mother of battles is invaluable and cannot be evaluated by any amount of sacrifice. No one can measure it according to traditional calculations of battles and war, because it was a victory in a battle unprecedented in the history of mankind. Ibrahim added that history will record with golden letters Iraq's legendary steadfastness in the face of the unjust economic blockade for more than eight months and in the face of the evil aggression in which all weapons of mass destruction were used for nearly two months.

Ibrahim affirmed that history has recorded for the Iraqi people—old and young, women, men, and children—their courageous stand in resisting the greatest concentration of evil and infidel forces on earth. History will also testify with glory and pride to the noble principles adopted by the heroes of this people, who through their steadfastness were able to manifest their pure and noble essence.

The deputy RCC chairman called on the women to double their efforts to accomplish the tasks entrusted to them in a state of gladness and joy for this great victory. Let them sing day and night, and let them toss flowers over the heads of the fighters, whether those returning from the battle fronts on leave or those joining their units in new positions.

The comrade federation leader renewed the pledge of love and loyalty to the leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, in the name of the women of the province, for doing his best for the sake of great Iraq under the banner of its leadership supported by God.

Mubarak Said To Employ Mosad, CIA Guards

NC0403194991 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1920 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Western press sources have revealed that the Husni regime has employed special new groups of the Zionist Mosad and the the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency [CIA] to bolster his personal security guard and the guard of his close aides.

These sources added that this measure came about as a result of heightened fears on the part of Husni and his closest aides about the increasing opposition to the regime after it lined up behind the United States and its allies in the aggression against Iraq and [words indistinct].

The sources went on to say that Husni has begun to use Zionist Mosad elements in the wake of the assassination of [former] People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub, who was a close confidant of Husni, several months ago.

PLF Head Cables Saddam, Reiterates Support

NC0503215091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1907 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable carrying greetings from Comrade Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], secretary general of the Palestine Liberation Front [PLF] and PLO Executive Committee member. The following is the text of the cable:

Struggler comrade, mujahid Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, greetings of the revolution and struggle. While greeting the unique steadfastness of lofty Iraq, the PLF, with high admiration and appreciation, praises your wise leadership and sense of responsibility toward the homeland and the higher interests of the Arab and Islamic nations, something which has prevented the imperialist enemies from achieving their overt and covert evil and aggressive objectives. Thus, lofty Iraq, and through it the plan of the pan-Arab and Islamic awakening have scored a great victory by maintaining the basic flame of the benevolent rights of the Arab and Islamic nations and the poor and persecuted peoples. It is a great honor for Iraq to put the American and Atlantic imperialists and their cheap agent tools to a difficult test whose results will become clear sooner or later in future confrontation, especially since the pure Iraqi blood has brought life and pan-Arab spirit back to the chaste Arab body, exposed the tyrannical American hostility, and revealed the true nature of the agent Arab regimes that have mortgaged themselves to the American and Atlantic will. It is enough pride for Iraq that the historic battle has restored impetus to the Palestine question and that the pure blood of the Iraqi fighter has forced the imperialists and their allies to recognize the most important and basic political results of the battle which are embodied by the need for an urgent just solution to the region's issues, in the forefront of which is the Palestine question. This shows your clear wisdom regarding linkage between the issues and your defense of this in the face of the strongest forces of evil and aggression, led by the American imperialism.

The struggling peoples, including our Palestinian Arab people, are fully aware of the fact that the result of one battle does not show the final results of the raging historic war between freedom and tyranny, independence and occupation, unity and division, and between evil and good; nor does it mean that something has changed in the essence of the bright facts, but it has further entrenched them. The traitors and agents, who are involved in their treasons [words indistinct], and the genuine honorable men are as bright as the sun in the skies of freedom and justice adorned with pride and glory.

Comrade struggler, the PLF once again reiterates its full support for heroic Iraq. Iraq's position deserves support from the strugglers and free men due to its heroic action in its defense of the nation's honor and dignity, and the pure sacrifices it has offered in the interest of the Palestine question and the issues of the Arab and Islamic nations. We will continue to be with you in the trenches of the pan-Arab struggle for liberation until victory is achieved in favor of all our just causes and legitimate rights. Glory to Iraq, which lit the horizons of the pan-Arab and Islamic awakening in the face of the imperialists and their agents.

Arabian Peninsula Front Salutes 'Heroic' War

NC0603044291 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The National Front for the Liberation of the Arabian Peninsula has saluted Iraq's heroic people, its intelligent historic leader Saddam Husayn, and its brave Army, which recorded immortal epics against the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression. In a cable, the front stressed that the alliance of Americans, Zionists, and their agents in the region will continue to be marked by shame and ignominy as a result of their aggression against brave Iraq and its courageous people, as well as their desecration of Muslim sanctities.

The front called on Arabs and Muslims to confront the aggressive war waged by the United States against Iraq with all means. It stressed that the war, in which the Iraqis recorded the most wonderful chapters, is a source of honor for all Arabs. In these immortal battles, Iraq defended the Arab land, its sanctities, its dignity, and its status.

Journalists Association Pledges Support for Saddam

NC0303050391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] President leader Saddam Husayn has received a cable from the press corps in Iraq, reiterating its determination to continue struggling relentlessly to safeguard Iraq and its dear soil. The Iraqi journalists association pledged to President Saddam Husayn that Iraq and its edifice will remain lofty, that the march will continue, and that everything will be done to safeguard the gains achieved for our people and the Arab nation throughout years of challenge and steadfastness.

The journalists association said: The press corps will remain what you know it to be—a fighting corps with relentless determination to crush the plot designed to bring Iraq to its knees and impose U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic hegemony and tutelage on its independent course, which rejects all forms of subservience and subjugation to foreign will. Concluding its cable, the association said: We give you our pledge as men that we will continue to wield our pens freely and courageously in defense of Iraq and its precious borders and to play an effective role in burying the great plot that seeks to humiliate and destroy Iraq.

Nation's Resolve To Rebuild Country Viewed

NC0603121791 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0840 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Baghdad, 6 Mar (INA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH emphasizes that embarking on hard work to consolidate the edifice of construction, progress, and development remains the holy duty of every honest and noble citizen. In today's editorial, the paper says that this is not only a duty but a jihad in all senses of the word and by all standards. This is because the military battle will end and will be put behind us no matter how long it lasts or how much area it covers. The battle of construction will remain the tangible material evidence of the greatness, willpower, and vitality of any people on earth. The paper notes that the field of the battle of construction remains greater and more in need of every effort and material and moral potential. It needs everyone, particularly since construction is more endurable and more expressive of giving and sacrifices.

The paper says: We in Iraq, the country with the first human civilization on earth and with successive cultural contributions throughout history, are more able than others to understand and embody this reality, because we live in a modern country with few resources, or without history or tangible cultural and historical landmarks. [sentence as received] We live, as our fathers and forefathers lived, and our sons and defenders of construction will continue to live. In the future they will refer to us as the best builders and defenders of what we have built.

The paper says that construction is the greatest jihad and is the symbol of a people's and nation's vitality. Only dead people or people with collapsing willpower and determination, or spiritless people without original historic depth, would stop building and continuing creative work. Our people in Iraq are not and will not be like such peoples, because Iraqis are a live people, have high self-confidence and great willpower that will motivate them to continue their progress and revival patiently and firmly, and have capabilities that will not bow to strong winds.

The paper says that the imperialist-Zionist-Atlantic onslaught to which Iraq was exposed was savage and destructive and targeted Iraq's edifice and development, and the material and moral factors of its progress. However, the sons of Iraq, who taught the world construction and religion, have come to (?tell) the world that they will seize their historic opportunity to reconstruct their great Iraq and revive it on its own land of glorious history and past. They are capable of holding onto this opportunity, even defending it gloriously, and giving testimony to the world that they do not bow to hardships. Concluding its editorial, the paper says: Here are the Iraqis hastening to perform their duties [words indistinct] with greater resolve and creative energy led by struggler leader Saddam Husayn around whom they are rallying to forge ahead on the path of prosperous life toward the future.

'Analysis' Explains Withdrawal Decision

NC0503142491 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 2 Mar 91 p 2

["News Analysis" by Ahmad al-Rabi': "The Withdrawal Decision and the New Political Facts"]

[Text] What is the dividing line between victory and defeat for us, the Arabs, in this world war launched on Iraq over the past seven months, and which Iraq is confronting alone??

Did we imagine that Iraq's victory lay in chasing and annihilating the forces of the 30 participating countries into Riyadh and deep into Saudi Arabia, that the United States and its allies and followers would declare their final surrender and recognize Iraq's international role, or that the Iraqi soldiers would quickly reach Tel Aviv?!

Of course, the emotions of our Arab people in support of Iraq and against the aggression alliance would have liked these objectives accomplished. However, in these important moments of our history, we must always remember and never let it escape us that Iraq is alone in the battle. Iraq was subjected to an unprecedented oppressive blockade of food and medicine, as well as to a political, military, and economic embargo for six months. Then, for the past 40 days it has been subjected to the ugliest military aggression in history, in which 30 countries joined, not to mention other countries with immense economic capabilities, and even many Third World and nonaligned countries that are supposed to be against imperialism who gave military, political, and logistical facilities to the aggression alliance!!

Iraq remained steadfast in an unprecedented, legendary manner. It fought the most honorable battle in the history of wars without being militarily supported by anyone, except for the emotions of the Arab and Islamic nations. We wonder what country could have remained steadfast in a situation similar to that which Iraq and its 17 million people were subjected to—not even the United States itself or the Soviet Union!!

The real objectives of the aggression were clearly exposed beyond any doubt in the past few days when Iraq foiled the pretext of Kuwait and international legitimacy by accepting to withdraw in accordance with Resolution No. 660 and in harmony with the Soviet initiative. Then, the declared objective became the head of Iraq, the head of its leadership, and its independent liberation policy which does not agree with the nature of the new world order, the one that Bush wants to impose on the world!

Therefore, since the beginning of the ground attack, I always thought that Iraq's victory in this historic battle had been accomplished by its ability to thwart the Zionist-imperialist conspiracy. This conspiracy aims at destroying Iraq because it was able to militarily fight the largest forces of evil and aggression in the world for over 40 days with a courage that stunned the enemies.

Iraq could have continued to fight and remain steadfast for a long time, but the political results would not have changed, whether the fighting continued or Iraq withdrew, as long as the entire world stood as a spectator watching the massacre being perpetrated against a nation and did not lift a finger, as if watching a movie. Moreover, some Arabs were fighting Iraq on the side of imperialism and Zionism! Therefore, staying in Kuwait and continuing the fight only meant further losses.

The withdrawal decision might have surprised many of us, but we have to realize the seriousness of the battle. We must also realize that the Iraqi political and military leadership is better aware of the circumstances dictating the withdrawal decision. We must not take pleasure in the Iraqi river of blood brutally spilled on the pretext of our support for Iraq and our anticipation of the complete destruction of the aggressors. We must bear in mind that not a single bullet was sent to Iraq from outside. According to international indications, it seems that the essence of the withdrawal decision agreed with the Soviet iniatiative which Iraq had accepted but after amendment in a manner that reconciled its provisions and the UN resolutions. Moreover, it seems that the withdrawal decision and its implementation began several days earlier, not on the same night that it was announced, because it is impossible for the withdrawal to have been carried out in 24 hours. We might arrive at this conclusion by the statement of the aggresion forces who said that they proceeded in some areas without finding any resistance. This indicates that the Iraqi forces who were fighting and confronting the attack were at the same time covering the withdrawal of other forces. The facts of the fight stress that principal units in the Iraqi Army, such as the Republican Guards, did not enter the fighting.

Perhaps the military battle has ended, but President Saddam Husayn in his speech a few days ago indicated that the period following 2 August opened a new page of interaction between the strong and the weak, the poor and the rich, the ruler and the ruled, and the oppressors and the oppressed. The Gulf crisis has created a new political ideology and trend whose effects will become apparent in coming times. The time of reckoning for the Arab masses and for those who conspired with imperialism and Zionism against Iraq and the Arab nation will come.

Use of 'Psychological Warfare' in Conflict Viewed

NC0503171091 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] It is no surprise that the enemies of the Iraqi and Arab nation resort to their media or buy mouthpieces that make a living of selling their services to the highest bidder. Psychological warfare, as we all know, takes place through well-orchestrated campaigns that begin with certain assumptions and [words indistinct] according to the circumstances. Those who use this method seek to exploit incidents, specific cases, or a certain phenomenon [words indistinct].

Those who use psychological warfare are interested in the kind of people they address, their education level, their economic level, their preferences and attitudes, and what factors may affect them more than anything else.

Let us talk more frankly, because the psychological war waged by the Americans, the Zionists, and the NATO members—in which they used Arab and non-Arab mouthpieces as well as scientific terms and military ranks—preceded the war, accompanied it in the manner we all know, and then continued after the cease-fire to exploit the effects and outcome of the fighting.

The question that comes to mind is: Why do they continue the psychological war in that hysterical and desperate way? Why do the enemies talk about certain events as if they are [words indistinct] for its has no value in itself? Why are they using lies, (?fabrications), and incitement? Is it because in their countries they think that people can be manipulated in any way regardless of what side is (?talking)? Or is it because our people are impervious to such thinly veiled methods? Or is it because our country, the great Iraqi people, the valiant Iraqi Army, and the struggling and valiant Iraqi leadership have foiled a great conspiracy to strike at Iraq, to smear its image, to destroy its self-confidence, to break its steadfastness, to divide the unity of its land and its people, and to falsify the truth about Iraq. They could not have succeeded.

Iraq has puzzled the imperialist enemies, the Zionists, and the traitors and agents who tug at their tails. It puzzled them with its courage and its confident decisions, unshaking faith, and the defiance it exhibited in the face of a bigger and brutal force.

Now, what other means, besides weapons and aggression, would they employ? Our people, who were little alarmed when tons of bombs were used in the war, will not possibly allow a radio or fabricated news to give the enemies the faked victory they are after. The victory that the enemies seek is to break our spirit and morale, but this, knowing Iraq and the Iraqis, is out of the question.

More on 'Psychological Warfare'

NC0503231391 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2035 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary carried within the "Egypt of Arabism" program]

[Excerpts] Honorable sons of Egypt, may God's peace and blessings be upon you. We welcome you to our commentary for today. There is no doubt that it is of primordial importance to continue to closely study the latest details of the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist scheme of aggression against Iraq, and against the Arab and Islamic nation. This is to enable us to take the necessary precautions or to prepare ourselves for facing the coming phases of this scheme with the same courage and decisiveness with which its past phases have been confronted.

However, this study should never divert our attention from the actual facts of this aggression and the nature of its objectives. We must not forget for one moment how it began, how it was carried out in stages, which parties were involved in it, and where it has ended. The importance of all this is to avoid being dragged into plans which are being based on new facts with the purpose of erasing the effects of the deception which has constituted the basis and the rule of this aggression.

The psychological warfare that targeted Iraq, the Arab nation, and the Islamic nation from all directions, and which has played a more important role than that of the economic embargo, and has left an impact on souls that is more harmful than the military operations, remains a weapon which the enemy relies on, and which it is using more intensively at this stage. This is because it is the only weapon that the enemy can use after the suspension of the military operations. The enemy will use it in various forms to harm Iraq's steadfastness and that of the broad Arab masses which support Iraq on the Arab, Islamic, and world level.[passage omitted]

Since the Arab parties which participated in the aggression under the pretext of international legitimacy and other pretexts have now realized how false those pretexts are—and that they will be brought to account first by their own people and then by the Arab people and Muslims, and finally by the entire international public opinion—they are seeking through psychological and information warfare to change their colors. These Arab parties, particularly the regimes of Husni and Hafiz al-Asad, have begun to sense how perilous it is to continue their allegiance and subservience to the U.S.-Zionist alliance in the current stage of the scheme. The Arab and Islamic masses have realized from the very first moment that the objectives of the scheme do not seek to destroy Iraq alone, but to place the entire Arab nation under U.S. and Zionist hegemony in preparation for fragmenting their pan-Arab affiliation, and later dismembering their national and geographic unity.

The Arab regimes which participated in the scheme imagined that the United States and its Zionist allies came to fulfill their personal interests and will then leave. No sooner will the clamor subside than these regimes will realize the magnitude of the loss they have suffered. They will also realize that the U.S.-Zionist aggresion, if it had not already harmed them, will harm them each according to the order and time set for this. They will most probably realize that if they are subjected to such aggression, Iraq will be the only one to which they can turn for help.

Talk Extols Saddam's 'Historic' Leadership

NC0503193191 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1522 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk]

[Text] Gentlemen, can one talk about the great historical leaders who have shaped and altered the course of events without talking about leader Saddam Husayn? Can one speak about the massive achievements and the revival of modern Iraq without paying homage to the man who created, directed, and influenced that revival, Saddam

Husayn? This would be impossible, because the responsible leading role played by this exceptional leader is one that cannot be overlooked when speaking about any political, economic, military, or cultural development either in Iraq or in the entire Arab world.

Over the past few years, the knight leader Saddam Husayn has been able to influence the course of events and reshape them in a way that serves Iraq and the Arabs through careful and masterful planning that has won praise from friend and foe alike. That planning has won Iraq great international political stature. One cannot help but view the scale of the massive conspiracy that was concocted against Iraq in light of this great Iraqi influence on the course of Arab and international events.

Saddam Husayn was the knight of the nationalization process, which was the biggest act of defiance against the international oil monopolies. Saddam Husayn was also the architect of self- government for our Kurdish people and the mastermind of military industrialization and diversification in the sources for weaponry.

Saddam Husayn was the leading thinker who sought cultural independence from the imported modes of thinking. He was also a pan-Arab leader in the full sense of the word, for he made the dream of liberating the Arab occupied territories a tangible reality for which he reached out and struggled, apart from the slogans that used to govern the actions of other leaders, leaders who profited from such slogans and used them to sedate the public.

Saddam Husayn is a unique phenomenon who has sunk roots in Arab soil. No one can belittle that phenomenon or discount its influence on modern Arab history. Because of that, the imperialists have sought to fight Saddam and to destroy his unique achievements. Therefore, Iraq and its leader have become an integral whole. This is why the enemies conspired against Saddam in this way and why 30 countries, led by the United States, ganged up against him.

The collective mind of our Arab people remembers all the great historical leaders who have shaped and influenced the course of events. That collective mind holds these leaders in great esteem and cherishes them despite the centuries that may have passed since their time. That collective mind also remembers the agents and traitors who have stabbed Arabism and Islam with their treason and agentry. Millions of Arabs and Muslims have cheered Iraq for its steadfastness in the mother of battles. These millions have cheered Saddam Husayn because he is the man who mobilized the resources for this steadfastness and triggered off the giant popular resolve to defy the enemies.

For all these reasons, one cannot speak of historic leaders without mentioning Saddam Husayn. It is enough honor for Saddam Husayn to have defied the will of evildoers from 30 countries and confronted them. It is enough honor for him to have made the imperialists who were used to giving orders drop their masks and head straight to the battlefield. It is enough honor for Saddam to have touched off the fire of Arab revival everywhere and triggered the struggle against imperialism and Zionism.

As for the traitors and agents who wanted to eclipse the sun of Saddam Husayn with the dark smoke of their treason, they deserve nothing from our Arab people but scorn and disdain, for they have sided with the enemy, betrayed the Arab people, and stabbed the Arabs in the back. History will record their treason in its darkest pages while reserving its bright pages for the historic leaders, foremost of whom is struggler Saddam Husayn.

Talk Assails Mubarak Over Gulf Stance

NC0303230891 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Unattributed talk from the "Egypt of Arabism" program]

[Text] The Husni regime is wondering why demonstrations are continuing in Egypt now that the military operations targeting Iraq and the Iraqi people's assets have ceased. The questions the Husni regime is asking itself in this regard reflect the nature of this regime and its isolation from the masses and their national and pan-Arab causes. These questions also highlight the factors that prompted this regime to rally round Egypt's mortal enemies as well as the historic enemies of the Arab nation. Moreover, these questions show the shortsightedness of Husni's regime in its dealings with the nature of the battle, its failure to understand those issues which stir the masses, and its underestimation of the sentiments of these masses which never make mistakes. Husni's regime thought the demonstrations being staged by the Egyptian people were entirely connected to the aggression against Iraq. This regime thought these demonstrations could be viewed in isolation from the crisis of Egyptian authority and from the Egyptian masses' other national issues, including democracy and freedom of expression. Husni mouthed slogans about these issues in the hope that this would serve as a cover he could use to peddle his betrayal of Egypt, the Arabs, and Muslims.

If Husni believes that the horror aroused by the aggression because of its excessive use of force created a new situation that would cause the masses to deviate from the pursuit of their objectives—objectives that are intrinsically linked to the all-out pan-Arab battle—then he is utterly mistaken. And if Husni thinks this horror has erased the regime's long record of treason and subservience from the masses' memory, he is only compounding his errors. There is no one among the Egyptian masses who does not believe that Husni's democracy is anything but a sham as reflected by his rigged elections. Does Husni believe that the Egyptian people have forgotten the election farce in which the dead were counted as voters and in which only 20 percent of the voters participated? Does Husni believe that the Egyptian people have forgotten the students who fell as a result of the bullets of his regime's security forces or that they will

see this as proof that the regime is upholding freedom of expression? Or does Husni think that the American-Zionist aggression against Iraq and the drums beaten by his Gulf masters and their singing to the tune of Haman [Pharaonic figure] with all their talk of so-called victory, a victory in which they did not effectively participate—does Husni think that this hocus pocus—can weaken the Egyptian people or undermine their uprising against the regime? Husni and the symbols of his regime have thus far preferred not to talk about the Egyptian troops who were sent by force to take part in the aggression against Iraq, about what these troops did, or about what happened to them.

Husni, who continued to procrastinate over the Egyptian people's demands that these troops be withdrawn by declaring that they would not take part in the aggression against Iraq, by saying that they were defending Saudi Arabia, and by claiming that they would not enter Iraqi territory, continued to utter the lies and falsehoods for which he is paid. Right now, Husni finds himself between a rock and a hard place.

If Husni is unable to admit that everything he has said since 1 August 1990 is nothing but a series of lies for which he is paid, he is also unable to deny these lies. What will Husni tell the Egyptian people tomorrow when the coffins of those killed in the villages of Upper Egypt and in the poor neighborhoods of Egyptian cities start to arrive? What will he say when the remains of 'Ulaysh, Hasanayn, Sabir 'Abd-al-'Izz, and others are returned to their families and parents? Will he tell them that this was an act of fate resulting from a car accident, of contracting the American AIDS, or of suffocating in the desert sand? [words indistinct] Husni to Egypt when dozens or hundreds of Egypt's youth do not return? Will he tell them that this [words indistinct], or will he tell them [words indistinct]?

With every passing day, Husni is finding himself increasingly under siege from his lies which [words indistinct] throughout the seven months of the Gulf crisis. Undoubtedly, Husni is still seeking help from his master in the White House from time to time in the hope that he can extricate him from his ordeal. Husni is finding, however, that his master is himself looking for a way out before the [word indistinct] questions which are preoccupying U.S. and world public opinion.

[Word indistinct] Husni in a moment of despair to admit all the sins he has committed against the Egyptian people and the Arab and Islamic nation for the handful of dollars he received [words indistinct]. If Husni does this out of despair, what would he say if asked if this handful of petrodollars was worth the life of a single Egyptian youth, let alone the lives of thousands—lives lost as a result of Husni's stupidity and greed and his humiliating subservience to the Zionist Bush administration?

The demonstrations that continue despite the end of the operations of the military aggression against Iraq and that Husni finds hard to understand are only the tip of the iceberg of the Egyptian masses' trial of (?the regime). The sound of cannons (?in the Gulf) and the raids [words indistinct] only the beginning of a series of fierce battles which will stop only when treason and subservience are brought to an end and [word indistinct] the situation according to the conditions set forth by the Egyptian popular revolution and the nationalist Arab revolution.

200 Reported Killed in Fighting in North 5 Mar

LD0503164191 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, a source close to the opponents of Saddam's regime in Damascus has announced: In the course of clashes between the government forces and the opponents in the northern region of Iraq at least 200 Iraqi citizens have lost their lives yesterday and today.

Appeal to Kurds To Join 'Intifadah'

NC0503220191 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1802 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Khabat is true to its name; it means struggle. From the Khabat [housing] complex in Irbil, the popular uprising [intifadah] in Iraqi Kurdistan began.

O masses of our great Kurdish people in all parts of Kurdistan. The Khabat uprising calls on you to join it. Organize peoples' demonstrations. Tear up the pictures of the dictator. Break his statues and symbols of idolatry. Repeat the slogan of the great mass popular uprising: No to the dictatorship; yes to emancipation and democracy.

'Angry Civilians' Said 'Fighting Government Troops'

LD0503183591 Tehran IRNA in English 1655 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan), Mar. 5, IRNA—Angry civilians killed at least 20 intelligence agents in the southern Iraqi city of Basra on Monday, claimed an Iraqi citizen who crossed into Iran through the Shalamcheh border area today.

"The Iraqi people are fighting government troops, and yesterday in Zubayr they raided the secret police headquarters killing six members of the ruling Ba'ath party," added Jabbar Fadhel.

According to another Iraqi refugee who identified himself as 'Faress' the southeastern city of 'Ammar "is virtually in the hands of the local masses."

He claimed that people have taken over the bureaus of the Ba'ath party as well as the city police headquarters and the intelligence centre, and "fighting is going on against the few pockets of resistance."

Mahdi Saleh from At Tannumah of Iraq who arrived in Iran today said the people have seized 14 Army tanks and captured 15 Ba'athist officials in his hometown.

He added that two of his own immediate relatives, Nezar Abdullah 15 and Ali Ismail, 13 were killed in At Tannumah by Republican guards.

Abdul-Naim Yahya Kadhem, 40, also from At Tannumah who walked across the border into Iran tuesday, claimed that an Army officer had surrendered to the people and had called on his troops to lay down their arms.

The Iraqi citizen who is in Iran along with 35 of his relatives and family members said "the Iraqis are having a hard time because of shortage of food staples."

'Masses' Allegedly Kill 32 Regime Supporters

NC0503210991 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] We have just received the following.

At 0930 today, the angry masses in the Raniyah district, the (Shah Khurnah) village, and the upper and higher (name indistinct) housing complexes revolted against the regime's henchmen who were pursuing the deserters who stoppped serving the criminal dictatorship. Clashes ensued between the masses and the police during which the masses used RPG's [rocket propelled grenades] and light weapons.

At 1500, the masses completed their control of the 'Aflaqite [Ba'th] organization, the security and intelligence departments, and the other centers and departments of the regime. Clashes resulted in the killing of 32 of the regime's henchmen from among the police, security men, and intelligence personnel, who refused to surrender to the angry masses. A man and a woman were killed, and six others were wounded by the angry people.

Fearing the angry masses, a group of the regime's agents fled from the Shikartah and (Farucha) housing complexes to (Bayt Laka).

The armed men from the light regiments played an honorable role in supporting the surging masses. Reports say the command, which is situated between Raniyah and (Sarkabkan), surrendered at 1900 today.

We congratulate our people on their great victory.

Groups Report Unrest Throughout Iraq

NC0503230191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] The Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI] has announced that the Iraqi masses took al-Najaf after a bloody confrontation with the ruling regime's forces in the city, in which 22 Iraqi citizens were martyred. In a statement released in Damascus today, SAIRI said that the Iraqi masses went out into the city's streets and attacked the governor's headquarters, the military base, and the popular army's headquarters. The statement added that the people succeeded in seizing government centers of repression in the city.

The statement said that a large number of security personnel surrendered to the masses, proclaiming that they were disowning the ruling regime.

The statement declared that the sacred city of Karbala' responded to the call to rebellion. A vicious battle raged between the angry crowds and the regime's forces. The battles were still going on at 2200 yesterday [4 March].

The statement added that the Iraqi masses are in firm control of Basra, and that three Iraqi Army tanks there have joined the rebellion. The reports indicated that a large number of the regime's men have been killed in the city, and that the clashes are still continuing there.

The statement said that the people and the army jointly confronted the Republican Guard forces and stopped them at the bridge that links Basra with the al-Khasib District. The Republican Guard could not advance across the bridge. Two planes belonging to Saddam Husayn's regime then took off from an air base and carried out an extensive bombardment of the area next to the bridge.

Referring to the situation in al-'Amarah Governorate, the SAIRI statement stressed that the city and its outskirts are under the complete control of the Iraqi popular rebellion. It said that a Republican Guard regiment stationed in the city has joined the rebellion.

The SAIRI statement noted that according to reports, an exchange of artillery fire is taking place near the cities of Hadithah, al- Duwr, and al-Fallujah as a result of a split in the army forces in those areas.

Meanwhile, Bayan Jabr, spokesman for several Iraqi opposition groups, asserted that al-Najaf City fell to the popular revolution following violent clashes, and that army units in the city surrendered to the revolutionaries. Jabr added that Karbala' also fell into the people's hands, and opposition members who had been detained regained their freedom. Jabr said that Karbala's governor fled the city shortly before it fell.

In a related development, Jawad Muhammad al-Maliki, a leader of the Iraqi opposition, confirmed that the Iraqi revolutionaries controlled al-Najaf Governorate after bloody clashes with the ruling regime leader's henchmen. He said that the revolutionaries attacked government centers in al-Nasiriyah, Basra, al-'Amarah, and al-Samawah in southern Iraq. He reported that army units, with all their weapons, have joined the revolutionaries.

In a press statement distributed in Damascus today, al-Maliki noted that the revolution against the Iraqi regime's leader has taken on an integrated popular character. He said the revolution has formed a support committee whose task it will be to organize the domestic situation in the country.

Meanwhile, refugees—mostly Kuwaiti—trying to reach Safwan in southern Iraq in order to return to Kuwait, have reported that demonstrations have also erupted in al-Nasiriyah, Suq al-Shuyukh, al-'Amarah, al-Samawah,

and al-Kut. The refugees added that in several areas, the Iraqi forces are firing on women and children.

Mahar Hakawati, a Jordanian photographer who came to Kuwait from Basra, said that Iraqi special forces are destroying everything in their path. He added that if these forces hear shouting from a building, they destroy the whole building.

In a statement distributed in Damascus today, the Iraq-based Islamic al-Da'wah Party greeted the popular revolution against the leader of the Iraqi regime, who drove Iraq to the abyss and separated it from its effective pioneering role in the region and the world. The al-Da'wah Party urged all Iraqis to escalate, continue, and spread the opposition, and deny the opportunity to any conspiracy the regime leader might cook up to encircle this revolution and sap its revolutionary zeal and effectiveness.

The Islamic al-Da'wah Party called for coordinating struggle operations among the ranks of the revolution and forming the necessary information, military, and political committees in order to consolidate the popular base of the revolution. It said this must be done in order to maintain the rebellion until it achieves all its objectives.

The party urged the Iraqi Armed Forces to side with the masses in their popular revolution, with the aim of forming a strong front against the Iraqi regime's leader.

In conclusion, the Islamic al-Da'wah Party stressed that the torch of the popular revolution will not be extinguished until the Iraqi regime is toppled, and the Iraqi people are freed from their nightmare.

Muhammad Taqiy al-Mudarrisi, a leader of the Iraqi opposition, has described what is happening in southern and northern Iraq as a real popular revolution and true expression of the rejection of Saddam Husayn's regime by all sectors of the Iraqi people.

In a press statement released in Damascus today, al-Mudarrisi said that the hour of the Iraqi regime's leader has come, and that the masses will topple him soon. He said he will be given a fair trial if he surrenders voluntarily. Otherwise, his fate will not be different from that of other men like him. He noted that the Iraqis suffered much under Saddam Husayn's rule, both before and after the war with Iran, and from his reckless adventure of occupying Kuwait and entering the war. He said it is not reasonable for Iraq to continue bleeding.

Al-Mudarrisi called on the countries and peoples of the world to sympathize with the Iraqi people's aspirations to attain salvation and liberty. He likewise called on the Iraqi Army and citizens to join their brothers in southern Iraq and declare total civil disobedience.

Refugees Say Opposition Takes Control of Cities

LD0603111591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Iraqi refugees from that country's southern cities who have arrived in Iran via the Shalamcheh border announce that the situation in these cities is tense. The refugees say the opponents of the Iraqi regime, by attacking the garrisons and disarming the military personnel who have fled from Kuwait, have taken control of Iraq's southern cities; and these cities are the scene of intense clashes between the people and government forces.

Basra Said Controlled by 'Popular Forces'

LD0603151491 Tehran IRNA in English 1414 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Ahvaz, Mar. 6, IRNA—Iraqi refugees arriving in Iran from Basra have claimed that Iraq's second largest city is controlled by popular forces.

Abdul Jabbar Kazim, a refugee from Basra, said the southern Iraqi port city was in the hands of its residents despite efforts of the republican guards to take it over.

Kazim refuted as "baseless" claims by foreign radios that demonstrations in Basra have subsided and that government forces were in control of the city.

"Most key government centers in Basra are under control of the people," he said.

The Iraqi refugee also claimed that clashes between Iraqi people and government forces were going on in the southern cities of Basra, al-Zubayr and al-Tannumah.

Mohsen Farhan, another Iraqi national from al-Tannumah who crossed into Iran along with his family today, spoke of heavy clashes between people and Iraqi troops in his hometown.

Farhan claimed that following the esclation of anti-government demonstrations in the southern Iraqi cities signs of unrest were coming from northern Iraq.

The people of Kurdish-populated cities of al-Sulaymaniyah, Karkuk and Mosul in northern Iraq had staged anti-government demonstrations, he claimed.

He claimed the cities of Basra, al-'Amarah, al-Kut, al-Nasiriyah, al-Zubayr and al-Tannumah were fully controlled by forces opposed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

'Dissident' Shiite Leader Comments on Support

LD0603092191 Paris Domestic Service in French 0800 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The dissident Shiite movement [in Iraq] is run from Tehran by Shi'ite leader Ayatollah Hakim, whom Lenard Reschenbach has succeeded in contacting by

phone exclusively for France Inter [radio] and France Info. He explains who is supporting him:

[Begin Hakim recording in Arabic fading to French translation] Our relations with the Kurdish people are very good and are historic ones: we also have excellent political relations with the various Kurdish parties of Islamic and secular tendencies. No country supports us officially or militarily, but we have the support of the popular masses in the Islamic Republic of Iran. We also have great popular support in Syria and Lebanon, and we are expecting great support from the political circles that are fighting for freedom and human rights. [end recording]

Minister, Ministers' Families Said Killed

NC0503205291 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1725 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Dear listeners, we have received the following:

News reports say that the Iraqi trade minister has been killed by the son-in-law of Iraq's dictator Saddam Husayn.

The following have been killed in the al-'Amiriyah shelter:

1. The family of Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim, including his sons Anmar and 'Ammar.
2. The family of the minister of agriculture.
3. The family of the awqaf minister.
4. The family of 'Abd-al-Jabbar Shanshal, the minister of state for military affairs.
5. The family of the chief of the guard of honor.

Islamic Action Group Says President Must Go

NC0403172791 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1655 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 4 Mar (SANA)—The Islamic Action Organization in Iraq has asserted that the Iraqi people's will has become apparent in the popular demonstrations which are the true expression of the Iraqi people's aspirations to topple the ruling regime.

Shaykh Muhsin al-Husayni, the organization's official spokesman, said in a statement distributed here today, that the leader of the Iraqi regime must listen to the calls to abandon power so that Iraqi's institutions and capabilities not suffer further damage.

The spokesman warned those who stand behind the arrogance of the Iraqi regime's leader and his despotic clique and who portray the defeat to him as something else that the struggling Iraqi people will adopt the appropriate stand on their disgraceful conduct. The spokesman said this is so because they are responsible for shedding Iraqi blood in the war which the regime provoked.

Opposition Leader Foresees Islamic State

TA0503162291 Ankara ANATOLIA in English 1555 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran (A.A)—Ayatollah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, speaker of the Iraqi Islamic Revolutionary Assembly said that they could topple Iraqi head of state Saddam Husayn unless he is not supported from outside and that they did not aim at establishing a Shiite state in Iraq. [sentence as received]

In an exclusive interview, al-Hakim told AA [ANATOLIA] that they were foreseeing an Islamic state (for Iraq), in which "the Arabs, Turks, Kurds, Shiite and Sunni have equal rights and opportunities," and "our objective is for the people to rule themselves."

Al-Hakim who is fighting against the Iraqi Administration from Tehran for ten years, gave account to AA on their struggle.

He stressed that he believed the Iraqi people should have the right to determine their own fate freely.

Asked by AA if the opposition wanted a to establish a state similar to that of Iran, he said, "various types of administrations may be established in the form of an Islamic government. This has not necessarily be similar to the Iranian system." [sentence as received]

Al-Hakim went on to say that units affiliated to the Republican Guards continued their attacks against the Basra city which is under the control of the Islamic militia and heavy fighting was taking place in the city.

He also stressed that the will of the Iraqi people was stronger than the "regime of dictatorship."

"We hope that the future Iraq has good relations with all its neighbours," he added.

Iraqi Forces Committee Supports Uprising

LD0503211391 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] The Secretariat of the Joint Committee of Iraqi Combatant Forces has supported the uprising of the Iraqi nation against Saddam Husayn's regime. The statement released in Damascus in this connection said the Iraqi nation's uprising was an answer to Saddam Husayn's warmongering policies by which he has brought humiliation to the Iraqi nation and Army.

The statement said the regime ruling over Iraq had annihilated the entire resources of Iraq and the economic, cultural and social achievements of the Iraqi nation and had eventually (?submitted) to foreign forces by signing an agreement of defeat and surrender.

Al-Da'wah Party Explains Reason for Rebellion

NC0503134391 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] The Iraqi al-Da'wah opposition party has issued a statement affirming that the Iraqi people have rebelled against Saddam Husayn because they could not tolerate seeing their Army humiliated and their country destroyed. The statement added that the Iraqi people and Army did not fight because they never believed that there was any justification for the battle sought by Saddam.

Military Asked To Join Rebellion Against Regime

NC0503224191 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1652 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Appeal to the commanders, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers in the Iraqi Army; date and place not given]

[Text] Sons of our great Iraqi people in the Army and the Armed Forces: You are the sons of this people and the defenders of their country and borders. However, the officials in the dictatorial regime have turned you into spearheads aimed against the people and the national opposition against the regime. They made you spread terror, death, and destruction wherever the voice of the opposition was raised against war, fighting, dictatorship, and its foolish adventures.

You have seen with your own eyes how the ruling regime flung you into a destructive war against Iran, without any regard for the interests of the people, the homeland, and all the human and material losses. The ruling regime has again flung you and the Iraqi homeland and people into the furnace of another total and devastating war, in order to maintain the existence of dictatorship and its ruling clique. The ruling regime has turned you into spearheads to attack your Kurdish brothers, slaughter their children, destroy their homes, villages, and farms. You have been closely watching their tragedy.

Sons of our people in military units 33, 32, 44, 47, 39, 56, 50, and 14, and divisions in Dahuk, Mosul, and in the [word indistinct] areas and the command of the al-Nasr forces in Kirkuk: The dictatorship and the officials in the regime have forced you to take part in the most terrible war against the Kurdish people, in which carnage and total annihilation resulted, and in which chemical weapons were used without mercy and without any consideration for human and national values and principles. We are fully aware that you are the sons of this people, and that the dictator and the officials forced you to do those things. Isn't it time for you to prove to your people that you are absolving yourselves of the crimes of the ruling regime? The time has come for you to join your people. Come and bandage your people's wounds by proving your humanitarianism and your attachment to your people. Serve as a support for your people's uprising, and do not direct your weapons against them. Join your people in their opposition to dictatorship and refusal to destroy national unity, and get involved in the fighting.

O sons of our army and the Iraqi Armed Forces: Leave your camps which the ruling regime established not for the purpose of defending the homeland, but in order to besiege your people, and because it fears the people's will, which rejects all acts of destruction that have affected Iraq and its people and destroyed Kurdistan, ruined its economy, and poisoned its life. It is now threatening its entire existence.

O sons of our Iraqi Army: Join your people and their popular movement. Be part of them, and abandon the dictatorship and the antipeople ranks for the sake of rebuilding your homeland; strengthening Arab-Kurdish brotherhood and the brotherhood among minorities; abandoning all sorts of rancor and discrimination among the people; establishing an independent, coalition, and democratic government and a stable, secure, and honorable life that will provide opportunities for dignified life for all the citizens; avoiding a devastating war and fighting which have caused heavy losses to the homeland and people and destroyed national unity; and consolidating and enhancing the image and role of the Army and the Armed Forces in defending the Iraqi people's interests and the homeland's independence and sovereignty.

Opposition Says Prison Near Baghdad Stormed

NC0503152491 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 5 (AFP)—Anti-government demonstrators Tuesday stormed a prison near Baghdad and released a large number of political prisoners, a spokesman for an Iraqi Shiite opposition group said here.

The spokesman for the Iranian-backed Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said the prison of Abu-Ghurayb had been stormed by an angry crowd.

Amid the unrest in southern Iraq, some 2,000 Iraqi soldiers have joined the "popular forces" in the port city of al-Basrah, he said.

The spokesman said that leaders of the uprising against President Saddam Husayn had called on soldiers to join the "revolutionaries" and warned that they would otherwise face "severe punishment."

In al-'Amarah, another southern city that has fallen to the rebels according to SAIRI, the number of troops siding with the uprising is on the increase, he said. "They are ready to reinforce the control of the revolutionaries."

Refugees fleeing Iraq's second-largest city of al-Basrah have already reported that prisons in the city had been stormed.

Opposition Leader Appeals for Saddam's Ouster

LD0603154191 (Clandestine) Voice of Free Iraq in Arabic 2200 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpts] Dear listeners, here is an appeal from Professor Ismail Muhammad, of the Iraqi National Concorde Committee [name and organization as heard]:

[Begin recording] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. O sons of the brave Iraqi people, the intifadah of our kinfolk and the men of our Armed Forces has begun from the mouth of valiant Iraq, from struggling Basra, from steadfast Basra, and responding to it are the masses of al-Nasiriyah and al-Samawah. It is a decisive response to the rule of national and pan-Arab treason, the rule of the criminal Saddam Husayn and his treacherous gang. It is the response of the masses to the surrender document signed by the representatives of the traitor Saddam Husayn after he drowned Iraq in blood and destroyed the homeland, the document signed yesterday in the tent in Safwan. From an eight-year crazy war with Iran, to a crazy war against our people in northern Iraq, to this farce that this arrogant man called the mother of battles, but which in fact was nothing but the mother of defeats and disasters.

The Iraqi people gave their clear and frank opinion in the first hours of the black 2 August 1990 to the effect that Saddam's move to invade Kuwait was rejected and condemned. It was against the interests of Iraq and the Arab nation, and all the region. [passage omitted]

O sons of Iraq, all Iraq! O sons of Mosul, Karkuk, and al-Sulaymaniyah! O brave masses of the center [word indistinct] in al-Najaf, al-Hillah, al-Diwaniyah, and Karbala'! O sons of al-Kut, al-Anbar, Salah-al-Din, Siala [placename as heard], Irbil, Dahuk, and all parts of Iraq! This is your day! This your honor! Great Iraq will not be humiliated, nor will it turn into an easy morsel allowing Saddam Husayn to stay in power. Hand in hand with our brothers the sons of al-Sumawah, al-Nasiriyah, and Basra who are (?marching) hand in hand with our [words indistinct] forces to pound the den of the tyrant in Baghdad, and to insure the emergence of a new Iraq, an Iraq of pride, dignity, and democracy. Peace and blessings of God be upon you. [end recording]

Concern Over Iraq Topic for Baker Visit

TA0603062891 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and Foreign Minister David Levi will meet to coordinate stands in anticipation of their talks with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker next week. A team of representatives from the Prime Minister's Office and the Defense and Foreign Ministries is preparing coordinated position papers. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports:

This will be James Baker's first visit to Israel. The intention is to raise a series of issues, most of which stem from the Gulf war, in the meetings with him.

Defense Minister Moshe Arens will stress the Israeli aspect of the war: the need to verify—finally and with absolute certainty—that all the missile launchers in western Iraq have been destroyed; the demand to prevent future Iraqi production of chemical and biological weapons; the continued presence of U.S. troops in the region; and the defense arrangements to be determined between Iraq and Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Prime Minister Shamir and his deputy David Levi will stress Israel's firm opposition to an international conference and will try to determine whether, as far as the United States is concerned, the PLO has indeed been removed from the agenda. The two will tell Baker that in their opinion, the best road to peace is direct negotiations, without preconditions, between Israel and the Arab countries.

Members of the interministerial team have pledged that the proposals being formulated do not deviate from the government guidelines and the principles of the May 1989 peace initiative.

To conclude, Jerusalem has understood from Baker's remarks before his departure for the Middle East that he does not intend to bring about a political breakthrough between Israel and the Arabs in his upcoming visit. His main intention will be to get a feel for the situation and examine the positions of the sides in the wake of the war. A senior official said last night that in Israel he will hear, at the most, new nuances to well-known stands.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 6 March adds that the Defense Ministry and the Israel Defense Forces General Staff "have begun examining possibilities for various defense arrangements in the region in the wake of the Gulf war. Our army affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that Defense Minister Moshe Arens has instructed teams in his ministry to examine, among other things, ways to ensure that a country such as Iraq does not threaten the area and proposals for making the region free of nonconventional weapons. The defense arrangements will be examined by the IDF's Planning Branch and the Defense Ministry, with an eye on possible negotiations between Israel and its neighbors in the future. The ideas will also be presented to Secretary Baker when he visits here next week."]

Levi Leaves Meeting With UK's Hurd 'Encouraged'

TA0503154791 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Report by Sha'ul Tzadqa in London]

[Text] Minister David Levi come out of his two-hour talk with his British counterpart very encouraged and quite optimistic. The UK now understands better than ever Israel's security situation, Levi told me, referring to the high level of agreement he reached with Douglas Hurd. The foreign minister said there is now a great deal of acceptance in the UK for the 1989 election plan and support for the Israeli plan insisting that negotiations with the Palestinians take place simultaneously with talks with the Arab states. Hurd told Levi that the PLO, as it has appeared publicly in recent months, has disqualified itself from being a partner to talks on the future of the region. Although the British disqualification was not absolute, they no longer insist that the PLO is the sole representative of the Palestinians. Hurd also told Levi that the UK agrees that Israel can search for an alternative leadership to the PLO in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip.

Minister 'Perturbed' by Right-Wing Parties' Stand

TA0403082391 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Minister Arye Der'i is perturbed by the right-wing parties' stand demanding that the government initiative be annulled. He has expressed displeasure with the claims that Foreign Minister David Levi is trying to accelerate the political process in order to advance his own personal matters.

In an interview with the Voice of Israel, Minister Der'i stressed that his party SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] believes that the PLO cannot be a partner to negotiations. He opined that it is now necessary to focus on negotiations with Arab countries, and to solve the Palestinian problem later.

Intelligence Chief on Prewar Evaluation of Iraq

TA0503155691 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Major General Amnon Shahaq, outgoing chief of the Intelligence Corps, said today that in 1991, the intelligence community made a mistake in data gathering and not in evaluating its significance and weight. What is called for is not setting up an inquiry commission or letting heads roll, but learning lessons, he said.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that Gen. Shahaq was speaking at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee upon ending his term.

Shahaq said that the data given to the defense establishment concerning the quantity of missile launchers in Iraq's possession were precise. Concerning the biological and chemical weapons, there was a need to prepare for the worst, because we did not have exact and verified information on whether Iraq has chemical warheads.

In the meeting, Gen. Shahaq and Knesset Member Yosi Sarid exchanged heated remarks. Sarid said that although it is impossible to penetrate Saddam Husayn's mind, it was possible to gather intelligence from the foreign companies that operated in Iraq. Gen. Shahaq replied that Sarid is doing an injustice to the entire intelligence community because he is not familiar with the facts.

Protection of Palestinians in Kuwait Urged

TA0403105291 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 1 Mar 91 pp 1, 7

[Editorial: "The United Nations Must Provide Protection to the Palestinians in Kuwait"]

[Text] Military operations in the Gulf ceased yesterday morning after the announcement in Baghdad and in the capitals of the allied countries on the cessation of military operations in the wake of Iraq's acceptance of the Security Council resolutions regarding Kuwait.

With the declaration of the war's end, negotiations and bargaining will begin between the conflicting parties on the region's future, but we wish to discuss and mention the many threats against Palestinians residing in the Gulf, particularly in Kuwait, that have been issued by some officials in these states.

One of the first decisions that Kuwait's shaykhs made after Kuwait was restorated to them was to cancel the residency of all Arab nationals from countries that supported Iraq, especially Palestinians. The Center for the Special Study of the Palestinian Problem, whose headquarters is in Washington, directed an urgent appeal to the United Nations and the Bush administration calling on them to adopt all necessary measures to protect the Palestinians in Kuwait from acts of vengeance to which they might be subjected, particularly after the appearance of graffiti calling for massacres of Palestinians.

The Palestinian president, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, had earlier warned of massacres similar to the ones that had taken place against the Palestinians in Beirut.

The threats issued against the Palestinians by the Kuwaitis immediately after Kuwait's restoration to them have proved that these threats were planned in advance, so much so that upon returning to their towns some of the Kuwaitis immediately began writing slogans that called for killing Palestinians.

We call on the United Nations and on international and humanitarian organizations to adopt the necessary measures to protect the Palestinian residents who are still in Kuwait.

Court: Likud Must Elect New Central Committee

TA0503113191 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Mar 91 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Michal Yudelman]

[Text] The Likud will have to elect a new central committee and hold personal elections for its largest representative body, the convention, within one year, or the present central committee will lose its legal standing, the Tel Aviv District Court ruled yesterday, following the appeal of two committee members claiming that the existing central committee is illegal.

Senior Likud sources said that the implementation of the court ruling would plunge the party into a "whirlpool of internal power struggles in a year when security and foreign policy issues are of the most pressing and urgent importance."

The sources expressed surprise that the court had decided to intervene in an internal party matter instead of referring the plaintiffs back to the Likud tribunal. Likud leaders will study the court verdict today to decide on their future steps.

The plaintiffs, Yisra'el Shalev and Shlomo Kohen—formerly Liberal Party members—claimed that according to the Herut-Liberal merger agreement over two years ago, the central committee was to have established joint party institutions, among them the convention, which was to have elected a joint central committee within one year. This was not done, and therefore the existing central committee is not legal, they said.

Moreover, they claimed that the 600 Liberal members added to the central committee after the merger agreement was reached had joined illegally and in violation of democratic procedures.

The present central committee, formed after the Herut-Liberal merger agreement was signed, consists of 2,000 Herut members and 1,000 former Liberal members. Before that, there were only 400 Liberal representatives in the central committee. In order to augment their number to 1,000, as the merger agreement specified, many Liberal members signed up family relatives and close aides and employees.

District Court Judge Uri Goren noted in his ruling that the Likud has no plans of holding a convention or elections for one. There was no reason not to hold a convention and elect a new central committee within one year, he said.

Housing Ministry Plans in Territories Revealed

TA0503162891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Report by Dov Gilhar]

[Text] James Baker is due to hold political talks here next week and in the Knesset two members presented data aimed at reaching the U.S. secretary of state. Sharon's black book, is what Knesset Members [MK's] Charlie Biton and Eliyahu Ben-Menahem called the handful of documents they presented to journalists today. The conclusion they deduced from the documents is that the Construction and Housing Ministry plans to initiate building more than 24,000 housing units for some 90,000 people in Judaea and Samaria.

The two presented protocols from meetings of interministerial teams which completed settlement plans already during the Gulf war. These include 10,400 dwellings in 'Ofarim; 1,700 in 'Aley Zahav; 2,100 in Avney Hefetz; 2,700 in Ari'el B; 2,800 in Brukhim; and 1,100 in Revava. The data together with the documents will almost certainly cause raised eyebrows in the U.S. State Department since the Israeli Government has already denied charges by MK's Zucker [Citizens Rights Movement] and Oron [MAPAM, United Workers Party] about plans to build some 12,000 housing units, which is half the number Biton and Ben-Menahem are talking about. The State Department's Dennis Ross has already written to Ambassador Zalman Shoval that a guarantee for the $400 million loan is based on the prime minister's confirmation that there is no intention to build in the territories.

Biton and Ben-Menahem wonder whether Shamir knows about Sharon's plans. They claim that Sharon has been pressuring inhabitants of deprived neighborhoods to go and live in the territories.

[Begin Ben-Menahem recording] What is happening now is that these people cannot be transferred by force. It seems to me that Ari'el Sharon wants to force young couples to live in the territories and to transfer new immigrants to other locations. He is trying to get some barter deal, but it will not work because the young couples will continue to want to live where they are and will not go to the territories. A solution will have to be found for them. [end recording]

We have a reaction from Construction and Housing Minister Sharon who tells us that the data presented by the two MK's are exaggerated, to his regret, and that the government has not changed its policy that new immigrants will not be directed to settlements in the territories.

Engagement Rules in Territories To Not Change

TA0303170891 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Report by Udi Segal, correspondent in the territories]

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] did not change the rules governing opening fire in the territories during the war. This was submitted by two information centers representing the two polar ends of the political spectrum. Betzelem, the information center on human rights in the territories, this morning published a report noting that eight Palestinians were killed in the territories by shots fired by security forces personnel in the course of the Gulf war. The report adds that, on the one hand, the threats that the rules of engagement would change and wartime practices would be instituted did not come about; on the other hand, firing at the Palestinian population—at times with fatal results—continued. The report also noted that since 17 January nine locals have been murdered on suspicion of collaborating with Israel.

The other report was issued by Aharon Domb, who heads the 'Uvda [Fact] information center and is a leading figure among the Hebron area settlers. In a sharp letter to the chief of staff today, 'Uvda protests that the military echelon has not complied with the political echelon's instructions. Domb writes that the engagement regulations and the procedures governing the detention of a suspect have not only remained unchanged, but have furthermore become more stringent [as heard]. He based his argument on the testimony of a reserve officer who served in Gaza.

Military sources have confirmed that the regulations have not changed but emphasized that the IDF will take all necessary measures even now to prevent the locals from running riot or engaging in violence.

There will probably be no changes in the defense establishment's policy regarding the Arab population of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza District. We have no intention of making the locals' life any tougher, military sources have explained, but the policy will not change because there are security as well as other considerations to take into account.

This means that the three conditions for the departure of Arabs from the territories to Israel remain: first, a written permit from the Civil Administration; second, a ban on their spending the night inside the Green Line; and third, organized transportation from the territories to their various places of employment.

Editorial Says Palestine Question Must Be Solved

NC0403120791 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
4 Mar 91 pp 1, 14

[Editorial: "International Legitimacy and the Arab-Israeli Conflict"]

[Text] The United States describes its racist and barbaric aggression on fraternal Iraq as a victory for international legitimacy. It sees its war crimes, which did not spare children, schools, mosques, churches, bridges, roads, and shelters, as justified to maintain security, peace, and justice in the Middle East. If the Westerners have to wait a long time before the crimes are uncovered; the scary truth is revealed; and all claims of freedom, democracy, and human rights are exposed, the Arabs will not have to wait this long. They will know the details of what was committed against Iraq, its people, accomplishments, and history. They will not need a long time to discover the lie of international legitimacy, and the falsehood of the concern of the United States, Britain, France, and the rest of the allies to fully implement the UN resolutions.

The U.S. secretary of state will begin a tour of the region within a week. There is talk in the Western alliance capitals about the importance of anchoring and entrenching the basis for security, stability, and justice. In other words, the talk is centered on the Arab-Zionist conflict, and how to reach a just political settlement. Of course, such a settlement cannot be reached unless it is within the framework of international legitimacy, and unless Washington, in particular, stresses its respect for the UN resolutions on this conflict. The alternative to this respect and legitimacy is imposing the Zionist, or the U.S.-Zionist, solution. Both solutions cannot be based on justice for security and stability. In either case, the region will remain a mine field capable of exploding at any moment.

The Arab-Zionist conflict and the essence of the Palestine question date back many years, during which the international legitimacy and its resolutions were completely ignored and humiliated by the Zionist entity and the United States. Baker's tour in the region is a real test of what Washington continued to claim and call for, and on which it launched its barbaric aggression on Iraq—what it called commitment to the UN resolutions. Under this claim, the embargo was imposed on the Iraqi people. Also under this claim the United States pooled the largest and most insane military power to attack the Iraqi people. Again under this claim, the U.S. war machinery committed its ugly crimes, which brought to mind the picture of the Tatars who invaded Baghdad, destroying and killing. All of this madness took place within six months during which 12 resolutions were adopted against Iraq. On the other hand, 40 years have passed since some resolutions were adopted against the Zionist entity, and 24 years have passed since others were adopted. Yet none were implemented, and the international legitimacy did not find the least U.S., British, or French enthusiasm for their implementation.

While waiting for what Baker will say and do in the region, we will continue to watch the U.S. claims on international legitimacy. We hope that Washington will be concerned, even slightly, about keeping the Zionist entity away from this legitimacy. Otherwise, the issue will be clearer to the world; namely, that the United States did not wage its war against the Iraqi people in defense of international legitimacy, but rather in defense of the Zionist enemy and its old and ongoing rejection of this legitimacy.

Columnist Underscores PLO Role in Settlement

JN0403111391 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English
4 Mar 91 p 4

["Weekly Political Pulse" by Walid al-Sa'di: "Now That Kuwait Is Liberated, Liberate Palestine"]

[Text] Now that the Gulf war is behind us, and the Gulf crisis is on the verge of resolution, the screws will be tightened against the allied powers to deliver on their moral commitment to settle the other simmering conflicts in the Middle East. Israel is beginning to feel the heat and is bracing itself for a long haul of political and possibly economic pressure to accomodate Washington and its allies and vindicate their posture throughout the Gulf crisis. Clearly Damascus is awaiting early returns on its support to the anti-Iraqi coalition and probably has already received assurances that the Golan Heights are once again negotiable. Tel Aviv will be equally pressed to negotiate over the West Bank and Gaza strip. The Iraqi Scud missile attacks on it throughout the Gulf war has proved beyond a shadow of doubt that Israel's security does not lie in territory and in holding on to Arab lands but rather in something much more comprehensive and lasting. Israel's long held view that it needs Arab territory to ensure its security has thus become baseless. Riyadh, Cairo and Kuwait are also projected to act forcefully in the direction of resolving the entire Arab-Israeli conflicts including the Palestinian question if for no reason other than to prove that the horse that they betted on is a winner all the way. Having sided so openly with the Western alliance against the mainstream of public Arab thought and feelings, such Arab states will probably wish to retrieve some of the losses that they had incurred with their respective peoples and elsewhere in the Arab World by showing that the way to an effective resolution of the decades-old Arab-Israeli conflict lies with them and the West. The talk of the international community is once again focused on the role of the PLO in any such revitalised campaigns for a Middle East solution. The West now estimates that the PLO has lost credibility and relevancy in view of the fact it sided whole-heartedly with Baghdad over the Gulf crisis. Israel also seeks to exclude the PLO from any such futuristic negotiations over the fate of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. But there is nothing new in this stance whether it comes from Tel Aviv or from Washington and its allies. What could determine this point one way or another is the position of Amman, Damascus, Riyadh and Cairo. Cairo has maintained its position on this issue during the

entire Gulf crisis and termed the convening of an international peace conference on the Arab-Israeli conflicts as still on as far as it was concerned. Saudi Arabia is not expected to renege on its past commitment to the conference idea to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflicts. Equally supportive of the principle of holding such a conference under the aegis of the U.N. Security Council are Moscow and Paris. In fact the two capitals have put themselves squarely on the side of holding such a forum as recently as during the final stages of the Gulf war. Jordan has of course always maintained the faithful adherence to the idea and never found cause to deviate from such a principled posture. Damascus is equally on record as accepting the principle of holding negotiations with Israel under the U.N. Umbrella. Last but not least the Palestinian people have opted for the international peace conference forum also. Needless to say, the common denominator for all the countries that support the conference idea is the indispensable place of the Palestinians in it and the agreement that this prerequisite needs to find expression in the PLO.

This continuing dichotomy in positions on the role of PLO in any futuristic negotiations between the Arabs and Israel takes the world to square one as it were. The PLO leadership would need first to reestablish bridges with the capitals that can exercise effective influence on the initiation and course of such talks. This will take time of course. The PLO would probably be asked to rearticulate its negotiating position before it is accepted as a negotiating partner. One can see months if not years passing by before any real movement is achieved. All preparatory talks would most likely get bogged down over semantics and tactics. Yet if the world is sincere in getting the Palestinian case settled once and for all, it must allow the only existing spokesman for the Palestinian people to negotiate on their behalf one way or another. The plo has therefore an important role to play in the quest for a permanent settlement of the Palestinan conflict. The minute Washington and Tel Aviv yield to this logic the sooner the world can get on with the business of solving the corner stone of the Arab-Israeli conflicts. Once negotiations on this basis appear in the horizon, a "ceasefire" can also be applied to the occupied territories in order to give a breathing space to such negotiations.

Saudi Airline Resumes Flights to Jordan

NC0503162391 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1550 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, 5 Mar (PETRA)—Transport and Communications Minister Jamal al-Sarayirah has welcomed the resumption of Saudi Arabian Airlines flights to Amman.

In a statement to JNA, the minister said that Jordan welcomes the return of the Saudi airlines' flights and those of any other Arab airlines to Jordan. He stressed that the Jordanian airports and the Jordanian Civil Aviation Authority are fully prepared to extend all the necessary services to these planes in order to facilitate their operations. He added that he is certain that relations between peoples will remain firm despite the events and crises which will be overcome by the men who are faithful to their homeland and nation.

Ministry Says Gas Rationing Measures Remain

NC0603054891 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1556 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Amman, 5 Mar (PETRA)—A responsible source at the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has stated that operation of the system of odd- and even-numbered vehicle licence plates is continuing, and that no decision has been issued to amend or cancel it.

Al-Asad Discusses Developments With Foreign Leaders

Speaks With Saudi, Iranian Heads

NC0403200591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received a telephone call from Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, this evening. They discussed recent developments in the Gulf.

President al-Asad also received a telephone call from Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani. They discussed Gulf developments.

Receives Kohl Message

NC0503133191 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who expressed joy at the cease-fire in the Gulf region. Kohl said that it is important to achieve a just and lasting peace in the Near and Middle East and that his government will cooperate with its European partners to establish such a peaceful order.

Commentary Discusses Foreign Ministers' Meeting

NC0503171591 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: The foreign ministers of Syria, Egypt, and the Gulf states have started their expanded meetings in Damascus. The meeting completes others held in Cairo and Riyadh during the Gulf war to save the region and the nation from the catastophe caused by the Iraqi regime's invasion of Kuwait and its destruction of Arab principles and charters, and the bases of joint Arab action.

Previously, the Arabs acted out of their conviction that an Arab does not betray his Arab brother and does not stab him in the back. Their efforts focused on shaping the common denominators among their countries and achieving effective Arab solidarity. But the Iraqi regime invaded a small fraternal country and in this destructive way dealt a heavy blow to all convictions and constants. Hence, there is no alternative to a new Arab order that will restore confidence to Arab relations and revive the Arab citizen's hopes of getting rid of the maelstrom of tribulations and setbacks by establishing clear rules for dealing among Arab countries—rules that will prevent any adventurer or tyrant from carrying out a hideous act that negatively affects the entire nation.

It has become evident to every Arab citizen wherever he is that unilateral action on pan-Arab issues inflicts the gravest of damages on the entire Arab homeland. The region has suffered a lot from the Iraqi regime's unilateral actions. It has suffered from its futile war against Iran. It has also suffered from its invasion of Kuwait in the first war and then from the squandering of many of the region's human and material resources. Destruction, devastation, and death prevailed in the second war. Hence, it is not acceptable to give any ruler free rein to make decisions that affect the interests of everyone because the security of any Arab country is part of the nation's security, and because whatever harms any Arab country also affects the nation. There is no better proof of this than the Gulf war, which has caused calamitous damages to the whole region.

Naturally, Arab solidarity is the nation's way to emerge from the circle of tribulation and tragedy, to confront the challenges, and to build a bright future for its sons. But solidarity must be established on firm and clear bases and should exclude adventurers and gamblers. In fact, Arab solidarity has to confront every adventurer or gambler. Had all Arabs stood firmly against Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and boycotted the Iraqi regime, the catastrophe and disaster would not have occured. Herein lies the importance of the Damascus meeting and of the efforts to establish responsible Arab solidarity and comprehensive pan-Arab security, and to draw up new arrangements for the region in order to block off the road to those who violate principles and constants. Under this responsible solidarity, one Arab country's aggression on another Arab country would be unacceptable and would require all Arabs to restore justice and prevent the aggressor from reaping the fruits of his disgraceful conduct. Under this order, Arab responsibility would become a collective one with no place for anyone deviating from the collective will.

The Damascus meeting is open to all Arab countries. It is the beginning and the starting point for a sound, scientific, and objective action. Pan-Arab security is one and the same and is enhanced by the participation of all Arabs in strengthening and consolidating it so that the Arab future will not be subjected to catastrophe or tremor. There is a lesson from the Gulf war and from the extreme harm and damage that have befallen the nation. This lesson must be translated into palpable action that will prevent the repetition of the tragedy.

Iraqi Arrivals Say 'Popular Rebellion' Under Way

NC0503205691 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1615 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Iraqi brothers who have arrived in Syria after fleeing the Iraqi regime's repression and who are staying at al-Hawl camp in al-Hasakah have asserted that the leader of the Iraqi regime is responsible for what has happened to Iraq and the other Arab countries as a result of his provoking a war in the region and invading fraternal Kuwait. They pointed out that the Iraqi people will not forgive this regime for the tragedy it has brought on its people and nation. They said the people are studying the dimensions of the humiliation to which the country has been subjected and the great damage which has affected Iraq's military and economic capabilities.

The Iraqi arrivals stressed that Baghdad and other cities, particularly Basrah, are currently the scene of a popular rebellion whose objective is to topple the ruling regime because of the tragic situation the war produced.

Soviet Electricity Minister Arrives, Praises Ties

NC0403224091 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] Yuriy Semenov, Soviet minister of power and electrification and chairman of the Soviet delegation to the Syrian-Soviet Joint Committee for Economic, Scientific, and Technical Cooperation, arrived in Damascus this morning. His visit to the Syrian Arab Republic comes as part of the preparations for the summer meeting of the joint committee.

Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; the assistants to the ministers of planning and electricity; Soviet Ambassador Aleksandr Zotov; members of the Soviet Embassy staff; and a number of directors of the State Planning Authority received him at Damascus International Airport.

Speaking to a SANA correspondent upon arrival, Semenov said his visit is taking place to discuss some issues connected with development projects being set up in Syria in cooperation with the USSR, particularly electricity projects including the Tishrin thermal power plant and its operation. He added that during his meetings with Syrian officials, various cooperation issues will be discussed, including the development of Syrian ports and the reclamation and expansion of irrigated land.

He concluded his statement by praising the close ties of friendship between the two countries.

Economic Cooperation Viewed

NC0503213091 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Damascus, 5 Mar (SANA)—Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, met today with Yuriy Semenov, Soviet minister of power and electrification and head of the Soviet delegation to the joint Syrian-Soviet committee for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation.

The meeting was attended by Soviet Ambassador in Damascus Aleksandr Zotov and members of the delegation accompanying Semenov in addition to a number of officials from the planning ministry and the state planning committee.

Discussions dealt with the development of bilateral economic cooperation with special emphasis on a number of technical issues in the fields of energy and transport. The discussions also dealt with organizational issues related to preparations for the meeting of the joint Syrian-Soviet committee in Moscow in the near future.

Lenoci on Damascus Talks, Syria's Gulf Role

AU0103132891 Rome ANSA in English 1052 GMT 1 Mar 91

[Text] [Words indistinct] Foreign Undersecretary Claudio Lenoci met here Thursday with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad.

Lenoci was received by the Syrian president at the end of the former's two-day visit. Official sources said Lenoci delivered to Asad a message from Italian Premier Giulio Andreotti to which the Syrian president gave a reply. No indication was given on the content of the two messages.

Also present at the meeting were Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Rome's ambassador to Damascus, Alberto Ramasso Valacca.

Before departing from the Syrian capital, Lenoci told ANSA that "we have decided to substantially promote our relations with Syria in various economic, commercial and cultural fields."

"Dialogue with Syria is very important to achieve a new stability in the region, following the end of the Gulf war," he added, "naturally, the position Syria assumed during the crisis had its importance. We appreciate not only the role Syria played during the crisis, but also that in the process of establishing a new order of security in the area."

Afghanistan

Najibullah Receives RSFSR Delegation

LD0303154691 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] The Presidential Press Office reports to the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met this morning at the presidential headquarters with the Russian Soviet Federated Social Republic [RSFSR] delegation that has come to Kabul to mark the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty. During this meeting, which was attended by Mohammad Eshaq Tokhi, adviser to the president, and Boris Nikolayevich Pastukhov, ambassador and plenipotentiary extraordinary of the Soviet Union to Kabul, the esteemed president of Afghanistan talked about the role and importance of the Afghan-Soviet treaty signed on 28 February 1922 which laid a firm foundation for living jointly in peace, mutual understanding, and lasting cooperation between both countries and with countries with various political systems. Having expressed satisfaction for the mutually beneficial cooperation between Afghanistan and the Soviet Union, the esteemed president hoped that such cooperation will also expand and consolidate further in the future in the interests of both countries and in the interest of peace in the region and in the world.

In return, I.B. Mikhailovich, vice chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet, thanked the esteemed president for receiving them and talking to them despite his many engagements. He said they saw for themselves how national reconciliation is being implemented in practice. And the State of the Republic of Afghanistan takes steps toward full implementation of this policy. The vice chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet added that they have met and talked to various strata of the people, state officials, private entrepreneurs, workers, and intellectuals, and have accepted that the national reconciliation policy has been accepted by the Afghan public as the only way to end war and ensure peace and that they do respect it. He added that they became familiar with the realities of Afghan society in practice and feel the (?ability) of the Republic of Afghanistan to ensure peace and defend the national sovereignty of Afghanistan.

Delegation Holds News Conference

LD0403000991 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] The high-ranking delegation of the Soviet Union headed by Mikhailovich, deputy [chairman] of the Supreme Soviet of the Russian Federated Republic, this morning revealed their assessment of views in their meetings in Afghanistan to a news conference. The conference was held by foreign and domestic journalists. During his conversation, the head of the Soviet delegation said:

In the course of meeting with high-ranking party and state officials of the Republic of Afghanistan, we held talks concerning the strengthening and broadening of economic, trade, and technical relations with the Soviet Union, in particular with the Russian Federated Republic. He emphasized the fact that the Soviet Union will not desert the people of Afghanistan in the present difficult conditions, and Soviet assistance to the Republic of Afghanistan will continue.

He added that as a result of the talks that were held with Afghan authorities, the possibilities were brought about that joint Afghan-RSFSR [Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic] institutes will be formed, in particular in the private sector, and cooperation between the Meli Shura and RSFSR parliament will expand further.

At the end of the news conference, the head of the Soviet delegation answered questions put to him by domestic and foreign journalists.

Delegation Departs 4 Mar

LD0403235991 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The high ranking delegation of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] led by I.B. Mikhailovich, deputy chairman of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet and the USSR delegation led by Yakushin Vicktor Vladimirovich, member of the USSR Supreme Soviet and deputy chairman of the Working Committee in the affairs of international servicemen of the Supreme Soviet which had come to Kabul to participate in the ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of the signing of the Afghan-Soviet friendship treaty, left today for their country [passage omitted]

RSFSR Economic Delegation Arrives in Kabul

LD0503030191 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Mar 91

[Text] A delegation from the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] headed by (Nazar Ivanovich Belaev), deputy minister of the RSFSR Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, arrived today in Kabul.

During their stay in Afghanistan the delegation will hold talks with the relevant Afghan authorities on economic and commercial cooperation between the governments of the Republic of Afghanistan and the RSFSR.

At Kabul airport, the delegation was welcomed by Soltan Husayn, first deputy minister of the Ministry of Planning, a number of heads of departments in the latter ministry, and (Opelvich), commercial representative of the USSR Embassy in Kabul.

Bangladesh

President Urged To Form New Government 'Soon'

BK0503162191 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] The BNP [Bangladesh Nationalist Party] leaders—Abdus Salam Talukdar and Saifur Rahman—called on the acting president at his office in the capital today. They emphasized the necessity for the formation of the new government very soon so that the new government could work toward solving the difficult problems facing the country, including preparation of the national budget, conducting negotiations for foreign aid, and other urgent matters.

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed told them that the question of formation of a new government is already under his active consideration and the parliament has been summoned.

Leaders of four political parties today called on the acting president at his secretariat during which they discussed postelection situation in the country. Ganatantra Party chief Syed Altaf Hussain, BAKSAL [Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Awami League] General Secretary Abdur Razzaq; CPB [Communist Party of Bangladesh] General Secretary Saifuddin Ahmed Manik; and NAP-Muzaffar [National Awami Party-Muzaffar group] General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharya, who met the acting president, said the members elected to Jatiya Sangsad [parliament] from their parties would give full support to BNP if it reverted to parliamentary form of government. They reiterated their commitment to the joint declaration of three alliances signed in November last. The leaders said in a parliamentary form of government, BNP being the majority would form the government.

The acting president gave them a patient hearing and reiterated the constitutional position. He advised the party leaders to open dialogue with the BNP and Awami League.

A five-member delegation of Jammat-i-Islami Bangladesh also met Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at his office. The acting amir of the party Abbas Ali Khan, and the newly elected member of the Jatiya Sangsad, Maulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, who is also the secretary general of the party, discussed with the acting president the postelection situation in the country. They assured Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed of the party's support for solving any problem which might arise in the formation of a new government. They thanked the acting president for holding election in a free, fair, and neutral manner.

The acting president appreciated the constructive role played by Jamaat-i-Islami in the just-concluded election.

Sheikh Hasina To Withdraw Resignation

BK0603010491 Hong Kong AFP in English 1801 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Dhaka, March 5 (AFP)—Sheikh Hasina Wajed has agreed to withdraw her resignation as chief of Bangladesh's Awami League following mounting demands from leaders and supporters, a party official said Tuesday.

The decision followed "demands from thousands of people from all walks of life" party Secretary General Sajeda Chowdhury said in a statement, without giving further details.

A party spokesman earlier said Sheikh Hasina "has not withdrawn her resignation letter so far and at the moment we have nothing more to say on the matter."

Sheikh Hasina, whose party lost to the rival Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of Begum Khaleda Zia, offered to resign because of her party's poor performance in the polls and for health reasons.

The Awami League was favoured to win last week's election but secured only 86 seats in the 300-seat parliament against 138 for the BNP, according to the latest election results. Thousands of Sheikh Hasina's supporters have thronged her house pleading for her to remain as party leader.

Awami League leaders rejected her offer to resign, and party Publicity Secretary Mohammad Nasim said "we tore off her resignation letter submitted Sunday... The question of her resignation does not arise."

Sheikh Hasina took the helm of the party in 1981 after returning from self-imposed exile in Germany and India. She had been abroad since her father, Bangladesh's founding leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, and most other family members were killed in a military coup in 1975.

India

Shekhar Resigns, Urges Dissolution of Lok Sabha

BK0603084091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0838 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The prime minister has announced in the Lok Sabha that he is resigning and he is going to the president to submit his resignation. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said he is recommending to the president dissolution of the Lok Sabha and holding of fresh elections.

President Accepts Resignation

BK0603094891 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0940 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] A message just received says that President Venkataraman has accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar. This announcement was made by

Chandra Shekhar during his talks with newsmen waiting outside the President House.

Shekhar Asked To Remain in Interim

BK0603110891 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1055 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has resigned and recommended dissolution of the Lok Sabha. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, has accepted his resignation and asked him to continue till alternative arrangements are made.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar told newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] that the president is expected to decide on the question of dissolution of the Lok Sabha within 24 hours. Mr. Chandra Shekhar's surprise announcement came in the lower house of parliament at the end of two days of dramatic developments on the issue of allegation of surveillance on the Congress-I president.

Congress-I Blamed for Shekhar Fall

BK0603121091 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1135 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Chandra Shekhar, has resigned and recommended dissolution of the Lok Sabha. The president, Mr. R. Venkataraman, accepted the resignation, but asked him to continue till alternative arrangements are made.

A Rashtrapati Bhavan [President House] communique says the president will take a decision separately on the question of dissolution of the Lok Sabha. Mr. Chandra Shekhar told waiting newsmen at Rashtrapati Bhavan that Mr. Venkataraman is expected to take the decision within 24 hours. The Congress-I leader, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and leaders of various political parties are meeting the president.

Mr. Chandra Shekhar announced his decision to step down in the Lok Sabha this afternoon. The surprise announcement came at the end of two days of dramatic developments which started with the allegation of surveillance on the Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi. The issue resulted in the Congress-I abstaining from both houses of parliament, threatening the stability of the four-month- old minority Janata Dal-S government. The Janata Dal-S which has 54 members in the Lok Sabha depended on the support of the Congress-I, the single largest party in the house.

The leader of the opposition, Mr. L.K. Advani, and other opposition leaders said that they will help in passing of the vote on account but are against the formation of a new government. They also made it clear that immediate mid-term elections are necessary to break the political impasse in the country.

Replying to the debate on the president's address, Mr. Chandra Shekhar told the Lok Sabha that it is not possible for him to run the government in the situation created by the Congress-I decision to abstain from parliament. He said the surveillance issue was not that big to create a constitutional crisis and described the Congress-I conduct as painful. Mr. Chandra Shekhar said that his government falls because of the stand taken by the Congress-I and not of the opposition.

The leader of the opposition in the Lok Sabha, Mr. L.K. Advani, said that today's development proves that minority governments are always vulnerable. The leader of the Telugu Desam parliamentary party, Mr. P. Upendra, demanding immediate fresh elections, said the Congress-I has again played a treacherous role. He said those who connived in destabilization of the National Front government have been rightly served. Mr. Amal Dutta, CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] said that the prime minister's resignation came as expected but too soon.

The Janata Dal leader, Mr. George Fernandes, said that it is the treachery of the Congress-I which forced the prime minister to resign. Former Law Minister Mr. Dinesh Goswami, AGP [Asom Gana Parishad], said that the only course left to the president is to call fresh elections. The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, described Mr. Chandra Shekhar's resignation as an unfortunate development. He was speaking to newsmen in Gandhinagar this afternoon.

The West Bengal chief minister, Mr. Jyoti Basu, has said that the CPI-M will not support any government at the center unless process of fresh elections is started. Reacting to the prime minister Mr. Chandra Shekhar's resignation, he told newsmen in Calcutta that the president should order elections as it is the only way to solve the crisis.

The Raja Sabha was adjourned immediately after the lunch break. As the house reassembled, the leader of the house, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, requested the chair to adjourn the house following the prime minister's announcement of his resignation in the Lok Sabha. He said the prime minister has done this in keeping with the high traditions of democracy.

Gandhi Says Resignation 'Unfortunate'

BK0603130891 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 1238 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Congress-I President Rajiv Gandhi has described Chandra Shekhar's decision to resign as unilateral and unfortunate. He met the president and then reviewed the situation with his senior party colleagues at an emergency meeting.

German President Concludes Six-Day Visit

BK0603081591 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] The German president, Dr. Richard Von Weizsaecker, left Bombay for home this morning after a

six-day visit to the country. He was seen off at the airport by the Maharashtra governor, Mr. C. Subramaniam; the state chief minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, and other senior officials.

Iran

Iraq's Hammadi Arrives for Unscheduled Visit

LD0503145591 Tehran IRNA in English 1426 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 5, IRNA—Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Sa'dun Hammadi accompanied by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf arrived here today without advance notice.

The Iraqi officials who came upon their own request, arrived in Bakhtaran by land and then flew to Mehrabad airport here, where they were welcomed by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

They are carrying a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn for his Iranian counterpart Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

This is the third visit to Iran by Hammadi in one month.

USSR's Belonogov Arrives for Discussions

LD0603065291 Tehran IRNA in English 0552 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 6 IRNA—Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Belonogov arrived here early this morning and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart Mahmud Va'ezi.

The Soviet official said he was here to exchange views with Iranian authorities on the new events inside Iraq, the future of the region and ways to avert another war in the area.

Terming the 12 UN Security Council resolutions issued after Kuwait's occupation by Iraq on August 2, as the basis for the tiny shaykhdom's liberation, Belonogov said: "The military stage has now come to an end and the political phase had started. The United Nations should take all necessary measures to prevent repetition of similar cases."

The Soviet official did not make any comment regarding the ongoing unrest in Iraq as well as the future of the war-torn country. He said it was difficult to evaluate the situation "because we do not possess enough information in this respect."

"There is an uprising against Saddam's government in some parts of the country but its scale, incentives as well as the role of the people are vague to us," he said.

He said Iran as a country having the longest coast in the Persian Gulf should certainly play a fundamental role in any regional security arrangement. "We think that the main role in the future of the Persian Gulf should be played by the regional countries themselves without any foreign intervention."

Also speaking to reporters, Va'ezi said that the countries of the region were very much concerned over the Persian Gulf crisis. He said Iranian and Soviet officials were in close contacts even from the very outset of the crisis. After the outbreak of the war too, he added, they focussed their efforts on ending the bloodshed.

Va'ezi, deputy foreign minister for Europe and America, cited the territorial integrity of Iraq, the regional security, and the presence of foreign forces in the region among the topics to be discussed in the Soviet official's talks with Iranian authorities. He said the two sides will review avenues for restoring a lasting peace to the region. He also reiterated Iran's demand for a rapid withdrawal of alien troops from the region.

President, FRG's Kohl Discuss Gulf via Phone

LD0503173491 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] In a telephone conversation today, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the German chancellor explored the latest developments in the Persian Gulf region as well as the security of the region and the internal situation of Iraq.

In their exchange of views, the two emphasized common efforts by Iran, Germany, and other European countries to restore security and tranquillity to the sensitive region of the Persian Gulf.

Referring to reports being received on new developments inside Iraq and the rush of Iraqi nationals living on the border areas to Iran, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed his concern over this issue in his telephone conversation, and said that urgent measures had to be adopted.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani also referred to the issues peculiar to the region, and stressed that the region's problems should be decided within the region and by the regional countries. He said the best course the multinational forces could adopt was to withdraw their forces from the region and to leave the settlement of problems of the region to the regional countries.

The German chancellor stressed in the telephone conversation the need for the region's security to be restored by the regional countries. He then called for the security in region to be restored in a way conducive to bringing about conditions suitable for the area's economic growth. He said the Islamic Republic of Iran could play a very instrumental role to that end. He stressed that his country, within the European Economic Community, was prepared to be seriously involved in an economic movement in the region.

The German chancellor then emphasized the need to maintain Iraq's territorial integrity. He termed the contacts between the two countries as constructive, and said he desired such contacts to continue in the near future.

Karrubi Attacks Majles Deputy Over Jordan Visit

LD0503235691

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian at 0500 GMT on 5 March carries a nine-minute recorded report on the 5 March Islamic Majles session in Tehran chaired by Majles Speaker Karrubi.

Karrubi is heard announcing that since there will be a vote of confidence on the health minister there will be no pre-agenda speeches. Karrubi then starts his address by referring to Deputy Bahonar's remarks in the previous session in which he criticized the visit by an Iranian delegation to Jordan and its meeting with King Husayn. Karrubi expresses regret that they should be indulging in quarrels in circumstances where "the criminal America is in the region, and her threat is clear to everyone; we must concentrate all our efforts and attention to neutralizing the plots of America and her allies." Yet he feels obliged to answer what has been said in the Majles.

He then mentions that there are enough contradictions in Bahonar's speech to reveal his objectives and direction. Karrubi refers to an earlier speech in which Bahonar raised the issue of Iran's foreign policy, initiated by Imam Khomeyni, not to recognize Israel, South Africa, or the United States. Apart from those three regimes, relations with other countries are permissible, as long as it is in the interests of the Islamic revolution. Karrubi adds that Iran established ties with Jordan under these guidelines and that the delegation visited Jordan accordingly. Karrubi says that if Bahonar is a supporter of the government, he should welcome this. But Bahonar's attitude shows that his support is superficial, according to Karrubi.

Karrubi then criticizes Bahonar's remarks on the government's implementation of foreign policy, insisting that the leadership endorses the government's foreign policy and that Bahonar is well aware of this. "How can you permit yourself to portray the issue this way?" Karrubi asks. He says that Bahonar is rejecting government policies and that his supporters are "lying" when they claim to support government policies and the imam's ideas about the necessity of relations with other states. The delegation's visit should have "delighted them, because their leanings call for it, their movement calls for it."

Karrubi then attacks Bahonar's reference to the "powerlessness of world arrogance and the distinguishing of the liberation movements, particularly the intifadah." Karrubi says that the delegation visiting Jordan met intifadah officials; along with Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement; Muslim Brotherhood officials, who control the Jordanian parliament and the cabinet; and independent Islamic groups. Karrubi draws deputies' attention to the prevalent conditions in Jordan: "Zionism and America have hatched a plot to completely annihilate Jordan." The people are distressed and have lost morale. He points out Jordan's geographical position, and says that Saudi Arabia is in on the plan. Jordan's only hope was in Iraq, but now Iran is in a position to help Jordan. Karrubi supported this approach, knowing that "afterward there would be blackmail and an adverse political climate in Iran."

He then says that even some members of the delegation opposed meeting with King Husayn, and were not convinced by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani's support for a meeting, but that Karrubi insisted they must do it, if only to boost Jordan's morale. The Jordanian people were sympathetic to the Islamic revolution, and Iran could not but respond positively. "I myself defend it and stand by it," Karrubi says.

Karrubi says that of course Bahonar knows all this. He does not wish to conclude that the aim of Bahonar's "divisive words" was to divert attention from the U.S. presence in the Gulf; nor does he wish to imply that Bahonar and his supporters are lying when they say they support the government and Khamene'i or that they wish to attract attention and gain politically. "But," he says, "I will conclude that they wish to keep alive the atmosphere of tension so they can benefit all the more."

Finally he warns the uncommitted not to accept the line of these agitators. Addressing the people, he says: "The line-of-imam faction will never be frightened by any blackmail or tension and will embark on any action it deems advisable, and will not gradually tilt toward an isolationist mentality because of tension, or turn into a totally coercive revolutionary, which would be useless. No; it will embark on tasks it deems advisable for the sake of the system, revolution, and Islam. Peace be upon you."

The Majles then moves on to the vote on the health minister.

Iraqis Reported Crossing Border To Flee Uprising

LD0503181991 Tehran IRNA in English 1621 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Ahvaz, (Khuzestan), Mar. 5, IRNA—Large numbers of Iraqis have crossed into Iran through the Shalamcheh border area in the south in the wake of the growing anti-government unrest in that country.

Iraq seems to be in the grip of an uprising with reports of fighting between civilians and armed forces loyal to the government in several cities following the rout of the Iraqi Army at the hands of the U.S.-led forces.

In related news, at 14.05 hours local time today a distinct boom apparently indicating explosions in southeastern parts of Iraq was heard in the Iranian port-city of Khorramshahr. The sound was so strong that it rattled windowpanes in Khorramshahr.

No report has been filed on the origin of the sound.

TEHRAN TIMES Calls On Saddam To Resign

LD0503210691 Tehran IRNA in English 1809 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, Mar. 5, IRNA—In the wake of rising tension inside Iraq, a Tehran-based daily called on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to resign "for the good of the people and to prevent further bloodshed."

"Now that Saddam Husayn has fully accepted and complied with the U.S.-led allied conditions, he must be held accountable for all the destruction inflicted on the country and its people. This responsibility demands nothing less than that he resign for the good of the people and to prevent further bloodshed," said the TEHRAN TIMES in an editorial to appear in its Wednesday issue.

The paper also expressed hope that the Iraqi people would do nothing which may give an excuse to their enemies for further plot against them. "By now they should learn a lesson and keep their eyes open while struggling for their genuine rights," it said.

The paper urged the Iraqi Army not to point its gun to the people "but welcome the people's will and declare neutrality and accept what the people of Iraq decided in free democratic elections."

Rejecting Iraq's disintegration "under any circumstances," TEHRAN TIMES said Iran, Turkey and Syria, as Iraq's neighbors, would not allow formation of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq.

Meanwhile, the Persian daily JOMHURI-YE ISLAMI said that the Western mass media by giving extensive coverage to the unrest inside Iraq aimed at overshadowing "more important events, that is the developments pertaining to the regional security system."

Further commenting on the regional security arrangement, the paper in its editorial to appear on Wednesday, added that one of the basic factors shaping the region's security was that "only the countries having coasts in the Persian Gulf should decide and carry out the decisions."

It warned that any attempt to impose a security arrangement on the region would be to the detriment of the people of the region and deplored any silence in this respect.

Comment on Consequences of Iraqi 'Miscalculations'

LD0503110691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The gross miscalculations of the Iraqi regime's officials in their assessment of international reactions to their invasion of Kuwait have confronted the people of Iraq, and the Muslims of the region, with extremely unpleasant and dangerous consequences. On the one hand, according to the reliable sources, Iraq at present has turned into a ruined country. The economic and military centers have been totally destroyed, and the larger and even the smaller cities have sustained irreparable damages. According to informed sources, to repair the damage the Iraqi people must endeavor and invest for about 50 years to restore Iraq to the position it had prior to the invasion. The greater tragedy lies in the fact that the realization of such a catastrophe at the hands of the multinational forces was rendered possible by virtue of pretexts placed at their disposal by the Iraqi regime. On the other hand, unfortunately as a result of the irremediable error by the Iraqi regime, the people of the region have also incurred enormous losses. First, the cost of the war against Iraq was paid out of the Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian holdings and, in fact, out of the Muslims' fund. Second, the superficially legitimate presence of U.S. forces in the region has confronted the regional countries with an extremely dangerous phenomenon. The danger in this phenomenon arises out of the fact that even prior to this, the United States's presence, albeit of a short-term and transitory nature, was subjected to regional Muslim reactions, hence barring the U.S. forces from establishing a long-term presence in the region.

While at present a great number of the U.S. forces are deployed in Arabia, Kuwait, and Iraq—by virtue of the authority issued by the Security Council—which are no doubt attempting to implement the White House's plans for the region. In such a situation a question that comes to mind is: What measures should be taken to end this illegimate presence, and who should shoulder the responsiblity for the chief cause of this infamous act? [passage omitted]

Tehran Radio Says U.S. 'Victory' 'Major Defeat'

NC0503175591 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0645 GMT 5 Mar 91

[From the "Voice of the Front" feature]

[Text] It is being said that the multinational forces, spearheaded by the criminal United States, has attained a victory in the Persian Gulf war. What deserves attention and is worth pondering over at this juncture is that the claims of victory by the United States and all its associates over the Iraqi forces have a propagandistic aspect more than anything else. From the point of view of political and military observers, it did not entail any proud honors for them, but was a major defeat from the military point of view.

The American forces' nonstop bombardments and continuous missile attacks against the economic centers and the residential areas of most of Iraqi cities for 45 days, without any resistance to speak of, cannot be considered evidence of the strength and power of the attacking forces. It can be considered more proof of the fear and weakness of those who claim to be powerful. It was for this purpose that reports and news pertaining to the war are under intensive control and censorship.

The means to gain access to the real statistics of losses and casualties inflicted on the coalition forces have been completely blocked. How can the American, British,

French, and other participating in this war against Iraq profess to claim victory when they have dragged thousands of innocent human beings into blood and dust with their savage attacks, and have inflicted billions of dollars of losses on Muslim Iraq?

The U.S. echelons are laboring under weak delusions that by means of propaganda they will be able to replace their bitter experiences of defeat in the Vietnam War, and the rankling humiliation of their defeat at the hands of the Muslim revolutionaries of Lebanon, with the sweet taste of a so-called victory against the exhausted Iraqi Armed Forces bereft of morale. Yes. Just as His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic Revolution stated: What the United States and its cohorts have perpetrated against the Islamic ummah is worse than the actions of Ghengis and Hulegu, and the real visage of Mr. Bush, with his civilized veneer, is not any better looking than their dark and ugly faces, if not worse. He killed human beings, denigrated nations, transformed a country into a wilderness, and now stupidly feels victorious!

How can a superpower that with military, financial, and human resources of so many countries of the world, attacks one country, and has now entered it, lay claim to victory? It mustered all its possible resources to defeat the fatigued armed forces of a country stripped of morale. This can only be considered a major defeat from the political point of view and from the vantage point of military credibility and prestige.

Commentary Views Problems Facing U.S. in Mideast

LD0503214191 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1600 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Unattributed Commentary in the "World of Politics" program]

[Excerpt] The United States may face crises other than the future of Iraq. Among these crises is the future of Kuwait.

As Kuwait is liberated, the reconstruction of her political structure will have to be attempted at the same time as repairing the destruction caused by the war. The Kuwait regime has no legitimacy whatsoever. The destitute people of Kuwait will never forget how the country's rulers fled the country and then how they returned. Moreover, the Kuwaiti opposition believes that the existing conditions give it the best chance of seeking concessions.

Some reports say that armed Kuwaitis are refusing to hand their arms over to the Western forces. They maintain that they have a share in planning and determining the future of Kuwait.

In any case, for the unforeseeable future the political structure of Kuwait will experience crisis and instability within it. Such a situation may well give rise to areas of danger to U.S. interests.

Will such instability pave the ground for the sovereignty of Islamic fundamentalism? Will such instability bring about factors conducive to Iraqi influence in that structure? Moreover, how far can such a shaky structure guarantee the security of that country? Can the security of Kuwait be solved by the presence of Western forces there? These are questions which reveal the uncertain future of Kuwait.

The questions posed above can apply to Saudi Arabia as well. Saudi Arabia was, in the most shameful way, turned into a base for the West and the United States to suppress an Arab country and to effect massacre and destruction in Iraq. By playing such a role, the Hejaz [Saudi] regime has invited a very serious reaction from that country's public opinion. Some reports speak of the growth of Islamic fundamentalist wings there.

Similar ambiguities exist with regard to the other countries of the region such as Egypt. [passage omitted]

Commentary Views UNSC Resolution 598

LD0503202491 Tehran IRIB Television Network in Persian 1700 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Following the cease-fire in the Persian Gulf crisis, once again the issue of long-term security and its effective guarantee are being discussed in international circles and regional negotiations. The strategic importance of the Persian Gulf and its basic role in the economy and security of the world—and the existence of different causes of crises—are of utmost importance and have concentrated the minds of political experts and diplomats of various countries.

Meanwhile, the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran and its pivotal role in the future security of this region are being watched by Middle Eastern and European countries. During the past few days, the presidents of France and Syria, and the Italian prime minister, have discussed the situation in the Persian Gulf and the efforts for a rapid return to peace and security with Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of our country. In these discussions, the president of our country said: We believe that the problems of the region must be solved in this region by the regional countries. Any proposal that is imposed from abroad is doomed to failure. The president of France and the Italian prime minister, while approving the positions of the Islamic Republic of Iran and our country's efforts toward implementing Article 8 of [UN Security Council] Resolution 598, referred to the article as a good starting point for solutions to the problems and difficulties of the Persian Gulf basin and the formulation of a security structure, and that this is in accordance with the foreign policy of their countries.

On the basis of Article 8 of the UN Security Council [UNSC] Resolution 598, the UN secretary general has the mandate to take the necessary measures for security and stability in the Persian Gulf through negotiations

with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, and other regional countries. Presently, different proposals have been put on the security system agenda. Within the framework of the security proposals favored by America for the region, ministers of eight Arab countries, consisting of the six Arab countries of the Persian Gulf basin plus Syria and Egypt, gathered in Damascus today to come to a provisional agreement over security and economic matters and to lay the groundwork for a gathering of leaders of the said eight countries in the near future. This gathering is the second gathering of the foreign ministers of the eight countries. The heads of the eight countries will probably gather in Kuwait and will sign an agreement for security and economic cooperation. The basic aim of this is said to be the creation of stability in the region and to fill the vacuum created by the departure of Western forces. In reality, the aims of America are the creation of an Arab security belt around the Arabian Peninsula to control the rich oil resources and markets of the region, plus the creation of an Arab political circle for negotiations with Israel. According to experts on Middle Eastern affairs, these proposals concern the safeguarding of foreign interests and non-regional political considerations rather than the creation of long-term stability in the region. To that end, they are the source of insecurity and tension and are incapable of providing stability and long-term security to this corner of the world. They may lead to the creation of opposing rival regional coalitions and will lead to mistrust in some of the other countries of the region.

Further, the lack of natural foundations, and common borders, and uneven economic development among those countries weaken the foundation of such pacts and increase the likelihood of their breakup, especially in the current age when the meaning of security is not confined to the military sphere. Countries of the region cannot guarantee the security of this region solely by relying on the military might of a few countries far from the Persian Gulf. Practical experience has shown that such might offers nothing but defeat and tension for the region. The experience of a decade of war and insecurity in the Persian Gulf, and the existence of border disputes—which are the source of many of the military and political confrontations and are continuing to threaten the security of the region—have raised the vital issue that the countries of the region, by relying on their common interests, must create a calm and flourishing future for the region. The bonds must outshine the differences.

Currently, common bonds among the countries of the Persian Gulf basin exist to such an extent that they are capable of creating a strong security pact. The Islamic Republic of Iran places emphasis on the creation of a security system comprising the countries of the Persian Gulf basin based upon the very same bonds.

Contrary to other proposals, the proposals of the Islamic Republic of Iran are first based on common interests. They pay attention to the international importance of this region and the world's sensitivity toward this region. Second, they contain a natural geographical basis. Natural specifications and the situations of the countries of the Persian Gulf have gathered these countries together with common borders. Third, economic harmony and the presence of oil in these countries are factors in the consolidation and stability of a regional system. Fourth, the history of cultural and historial links among the countries of the region are an important link in this chain. Finally, this security system, based on Resolution 598, has international legal support. Based on these principles, according to many commentators and diplomats, these proposals will not only provide long-term stability to the region but they will also lead to the flourishing of the economy of the Persian Gulf and the whole Middle East.

Commentary Warns U.S. Against Gulf Presence

LD0603093691 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0740 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The devasting war which started because of Iraq's occupation of Kuwait intensified with the onslaught of the multinational forces on 16 January and reached its peak with the start of the West's ground offensive. Now with the establishment of a cease-fire, the war has stopped but the crisis resulting from this 45-day war still persists.

The United States, by forcing Iraq to leave Kuwait, will endeavor from now on to consolidate its presence in the region. But many political observers and experts on the region believe that this will incite the anti-American sentiments of the region's Muslims. If the Americans and their allies allow themselves to be overcome by their pride resulting from the defeat of the motiveless Iraqi Army and seek to impose their views and demands on the Muslim people of the region, probably they should expect incidents in southern Iraq such as befell the U.S. and Zionist troops in southern Lebanon. The White House leaders must not forget that acquiescence to the presence of Americans in the Persian Gulf region was justifiable and possible as long as Kuwait was under Iraqi occupation. But continuation of the presence of Westerners in the region can bring adverse consequences in its wake.

In the view of Muslims of the region, the Persian Gulf crisis is still continuing despite the end of the occupation of Kuwait and undoubtedly it will continue until the withdrawal of the last U.S. soldier. If peace and security has left the critical and strategic Persian Gulf region for years to come, its causes must be looked for in the actions of the United States and its western allies and their lackeys in the region. This is because it was the United States and its European allies who, by their complete economic-military and intelligence assistance during the eight years of the imposed war against Iran, brought about the consolidation of Baghdad's rule and caused the continuation of tension and insecurity.

So today, the Americans cannot claim that they have suppressed the causes of the crisis, tension, and instability since they themselves are the true cause of insecurity in the region.

'Regional Nations' Urged To Form Security System

LD0603100991 Tehran IRNA in English 0843 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran, March 6, IRNA—The morning daily "JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI" wrote Wednesday [6 March] that establishment of security in the Persian Gulf region is an indisputable right of the regional nations and deciding on a security system and implementing it is the sole responsibility of the Persian Gulf littoral states.

In an editorial "The New Security System of the Region" the paper said that the root cause of the past and present problems of the region is the presence of foreigners. Allowing the outsiders to participate in the security system of the Persian Gulf or even to influence the region will turn the problems and crises of the area into permanent phenomena.

The Western media by giving extensive coverage to the highly critical situation in Iraq plan to overshadow more crucial events, among them developments concerning the regional security system.

Washington hopes to take quick advantage of the disturbance in the region in a bid to impose on the region a security system it has in mind.

"Whose security is at stake? Are the objectives of such a system within the framework of interests of the U.S. and the plunderers, or the aim must be providing security for the nations and countries of the region so that they will be immune against any possible threat from any regional or foreign power," asked the paper.

Indications are that the West by raising the issue of establishing a security system is after two goals. "One, to ensure export of oil from the region. Two, giving assurances to regimes that can provide the West with a proper foothold in the region."

Any security plan which does not ensure national security of the regional states, security of the oil producing nations and needs of the region is doomed to fail. "Such a scheme will definitely be ensued by a long period of instability, chaos and insecurity in the region."

"As long as the root causes of the regional crises in the past decade remain unknown and as long as no efforts are made to eradicate the causes, presenting any security plan even if it stems from honesty, sincerity and logic, is again doomed."

The editorial stressed "Illegitimate presence of military forces of enemies of Muslims in the heart of the oil-rich region of the Islamic world, under no pretext or condition should be given a legitimate cover."

Oil belongs to the nations of the region, any move which somehow considers the regional oil resources as the property of enemies of Islam or the domain of the national security of these enemies means revival of the ominous domination of plunderers over the region under a new name.

"Any attempt by the oppressors to impose a new security plan on the region is to the detriment of the regional nations. Any act of silence, compromise or retreat from the clearly-stated stands which are the guarantors of security and interests of the regional nations, will surely lead to a new round of insecurity, or even to a long period of insecurity in the region."

The paper concluded by stressing that regional nations must by formulating a new security system for the region protect their own interests and security and repel any domination-seeking tendencies of the oppressors.

Government Allegedly Seeking Ties With Saudis

TA0503133591 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 0330 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Tehran political circles are saying that the Islamic Republic regime is seeking to establish diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia. Reportedly Hashemi-Rafsanjani is insisting very much on this matter and has explicitly instructed the regime's Foreign Ministry in this regard.

Maldives

Dissent Said Rising Since 1988 Failed Coup

BK0603032891 Hong Kong AFP in English 0250 GMT 6 Mar 91

[By Anosh Ahamath]

[Text] Colombo, March 6 (AFP)—A wave of unprecedented arrests and detentions have highlighted simmering dissent in the tiny Indian Ocean atoll nation of Maldives, which glossy travel brochures tout as the last paradise on earth.

Analysts here say a series of arson attacks and an attempt to blow up a conference hall for South Asian leaders in the capital, Male, have resulted in dozens of arrests, including journalists, since November.

"The significant feature now is that dissent has come into the open. Earlier no one dared say anything against the government," a Maldive-watcher here said, adding that a failed coup in 1988 had sparked off the trend.

President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, who survived the coup led by local dissidents with the help of Sri Lankan Tamil mercenaries, referred to the unrest when he addressed Parliament Sunday.

"Any differences of opinion and thought that may occur among the people should not be allowed to adversely

effect the stability of the country. The people should find ways of settling such differences among themselves," he said.

Analysts say that until a few years back, officials rarely talked openly about dissent in the Maldives, which has a one party system with full executive and legislative powers resting with the president.

Lying some 700 kilometers (430 miles) southwest of Sri Lanka, violence was virtually unknown in the peaceful Islamic archipelago until the November 1988 armed attack on Male, in which more than a dozen people died.

"That (coup attempt) really gave a jolt to the authorities. They promised to bring about reforms, perhaps realising there was some sort of internal opposition to their rule," an observer said.

Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel acknowledged there was discontent in the country, but said the problem was being "exaggerated by people who are involved."

"This is bound to happen and is happening all over the world. It is not only in the Maldives," Mr. Jameel told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE during his visit to Sri Lanka last week. "But if anyone resorts to violence and threatens and terrorises people, then of course, we will take it seriously," Mr. Jameel said.

The country's Parliament passed tough prevention of terrorism laws in December to contain the rising militancy.

Hardline newspapers SANGU and HUKURU were closed and their top journalists arrested, following unprecedented criticism of the government and former Junior Defence Minister Ilyas Ibrahim.

The Maldivian high commissioner here, Ahmed Abdulla, has described the arrested journalists as belonging to "reactionary" groups and accused them of using the profession "to mislead people."

Dissidents in the Maldives point out that following the closure of the two newspapers, public criticism of the government is confined to the market place, restaurants and inside homes.

"As long as the criticism is not audible enough to cause embarrassment and does not appear in black and white the government does not mind," one critic of the Gayoom administration said.

Supporters of Mr. Gayoom admit the current agitation snowballed after Mr. Ibrahim, a brother-in-law of the president, was allowed to return home in August after fleeing the country in May, amid a corruption scandal.

Maldivians allege Mr. Ibrahim, who was stripped of his ministerial post after he fled the country, now operates a small but feared secret police called the Bimbi Force. The group is rumoured to collect information about opponents of the government and keep them under strict surveillance.

"Well, in any place you find supporters and opponents of any individual, and they form into groups. I don't think this amounts to private armies and things like that," Mr. Jameel said.

Anti-government activists have accused the government of trying to go back on pledges to amend the constitution. However, Mr. Jameel said the process of political reform had been "accelerated during the past three years."

Describing it as "a challenging task", Mr. Jameel said it would take some time to produce "a model constitution."

Nepal & Bhutan

Nepal

National Democrats Call for Government Resignation

BK0603110391 Hong Kong AFP in English 1051 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Kathmandu, March 6 (AFP)—Nepal's National Democratic Party (NDP) Wednesday called for the resignation of the country's interim coalition government to ensure free and fair elections in May.

NDP General Secretary Rabindra Nath Sharma told delegates at the party's first national conference that he had serious doubts that Nepal's ruling coalition of the Nepali Congress and several leftist parties could guarantee "free, fair and peaceful" elections due May 12.

As the NDP conference ended Wednesday, delegates adopted a resolution calling for the dissolution of the interim government and the establishment of an impartial government to ensure free elections.

Delegates also voted through a resolution on law and order accusing the government of failing to protect lives and property in the run up to the election.

Political analysts here expect the NDP, led by Surya Bahadur Thapa, to emerge as the third largest force in the country's 205-seat house of representatives after the elections.

Mr. Thapa, a liberal former leader in Nepal's partyless panchayat [parliamentary] system of government, told the conference that Nepal was facing the growth of undeclared dictatorship and that human rights violations were continuing.

A coalition of the Nepali Congress and several leftist parties replaced the panchayat government last April after widespread demonstrations against the partyless system.

The NDP conference, attended by 1,700 delegates and 902 observers, passed several resolutions dealing with human rights, law and order, the economic situation and the Gulf crisis.

Delegates also endorsed an election manifesto emphasising rural development and the expansion of economic opportunities for ethnic minorities.

King Approves Controversial Property Tax

BK0503133691 Hong Kong AFP in English 1249 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Kathmandu, March 5 (AFP)—King Birendra of Nepal has approved a controversial property tax hitting the wealthy following lengthy debate, state radio said Tuesday.

Finance Minister Devendra Raj Pandey proposed the property tax in his 1990-91 fiscal year budget presented in early July. It earmarked an initial 21 million rupees (870,000 U.S. dollars) in revenue from the tax.

Conservative ministers sought to delay the bill while left-wing ministers in the interim cabinet had pushed for quick approval by the king.

A senior Justice Ministry official said the final version of the bill as approved by the king threatened the country's wealthy although it would only affect 2.5 per cent of the nation's 19 million inhabitants.

A Finance Ministry official said the tax would exempt real estate worth less than 2.5 million rupees (100,000 dollars). Properties worth more than that but less than 7.5 million rupees (300,000 dollars) would be taxed at 0.25 per cent of their declared value.

Properties between 7.5 million rupees and 15 million rupees (620,000 dollars) would be taxed at 0.50 per cent, while more valuable properties will be taxed at one per cent.

Economic analysts warned that the tax would discourage foreigners from investing here while political analysts said it would hurt the dominant Nepali Congress in the upcoming May elections.

Forged Passport, Visa Racket Targeted

OW0303064891 Tokyo KYODO in English 0547 GMT 3 Mar 91

[Text] Kathmandu, March 3 KYODO—Some 125 Nepalese and foreign nationals have been fined and jailed in Nepal in the past one year for their involvement in a racket in forged passports and visas, the Department of Immigration said Sunday.

The racket is highly profitable and has emerged as one of the negative aspects of the Himalayan kingdom's tourist industry.

Buyers, including Chinese from Hong Kong who want to leave the British colony before it comes under the rule of China in 1997, would pay 500 to 1,000 dollars for a fake Nepalese passport, according to officials.

They said the buyers also include Chinese from China and that a Nepalese passport holder can usually obtain a visa to enter Western countries with less difficulty than a Chinese passport holder, the officials said.

Besides Nepalese passports, forged travel documents from other countries were also found to have been supplied in the clandestine trade.

Department officials said without giving a number that forged passports purportedly issued by Japan, Britain, Canada, Singapore, Spain, Venezuela and other countries have been seized, including those with false Nepalese visas.

In many cases, lost passports were used in the forgeries, they said.

The officials said Chinese citizens were found to have entered Nepal with Chinese passports, and then took out fake passports of other countries to go on to Europe or the United States.

Measures have now been taken to stop the illegal activity, the department officials said, adding Chinese nationals entering Nepal are allowed to go on to their final destination only if their travel documents are in order.

Otherwise, they are returned to their point of embarkation with the help of the respective foreign diplomatic mission, they said.

Sri Lanka

Government Resumes 'Aerial Attacks' on LTTE

BK0503161291 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] In Sri Lanka, security forces have resumed aerial attacks on Tamil militant positions in the northeast after a brief lull following the assassination of [minister of state for defense] M:. Wijeratne. The air force carried out attacks over several LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] targets in Jaffna peninsula. Meanwhile, hundreds of Tamils have been detained in Colombo for interrogation. The office of the Eelam Revolutionary Students Organization was also raided today. Official sources in Colombo said raids on homes, offices and business houses began last night as part of the investigation.

As reported earlier, the LTTE denies having a hand in the bomb blast on Saturday [2 March].

LTTE Says 13 Civilians Killed

BK0603054691 Hong Kong AFP in English 0450 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Colombo, March 6 (AFP)—The dominant Tamil guerrilla group in Sri Lanka, the Liberation Tigers of

Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has accused the Air Force of killing 13 people during bombing raids on the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

In a statement received here Wednesday from its London office, the LTTE said several air force planes carried out "savage" bombing of areas in Jaffna, killing 13 civilians and injuring scores of others.

The LTTE said the raids, beginning Monday, had targetted Kondavil, Ariyalai, Thondamanatru, Vallaiveli and Atchuveli, damaging temples, houses, shops and a market place.

Five girls were among those "mercilessly murdered in this terrible bombardment", the statement said, adding that the famous Vallai Muni Hindu temple at Vallaiveli had been damaged in "a deliberate attack."

A military spokesman here said the air campaign was routine and denied the Air Force was targetting civilians.

Officials on Tuesday said the Air Force resumed aerial strikes on LTTE bases in Jaffna after a brief lull following Saturday's killing of State Minister for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne in a car bomb attack in the capital Colombo.

The military here believes the attack was the work of the LTTE, which carried out similar strikes in Colombo in 1986 and 1987, but the Tigers have flatly denied any involvement.

"With the death of the minister, the LTTE is trying to make out that the security forces have gone on a revenge spree. They know this is a good time for propaganda," the military spokesman said referring to the LTTE accusations.

Nearly 5,600 people have died in fighting in the Tamil-majority northeast since June when the LTTE renewed its bloody seccessionist campaign, ending 14 months of peace talks with the Sri Lankan Government.

Wijetunge Sworn in To Replace Slain Wijeratne

BK0603111491 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 6 Mar 91

[Text] Prime Minister and Minister of Finance D.B. Wijetunge was sworn in this morning as the minister of state for defense before His Excellency President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

1990 Tea Production, Revenues Set Records

BK0503120091 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Excerpt] The tea crop for last year was an all time record. Low-grown [tea] crossed the 100-million-kg mark for the first time in 1990. The revenue obtained from the sale of tea, expressed in rupee term of 19.8, is also a figure that has not been attained before. The quantity exported in 1990 of 215.6 million kg does not constitute a record as expected earlier. It fell short of the last high figure of 219.9 million kg recorded in 1988 by 4.3 million kg. Sri Lanka could have easily achieved a figure of over 220 million kg if normal trading patterns existed. What really took everybody by surprise was the unexpected drop in exports for December last year. [passage omitted]

National Carrier To Resume Gulf Services

BK0503135091 Hong Kong AFP in English 1334 GMT 5 Mar 91

[Text] Colombo, March 5 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's national carrier, Air Lanka, is to resume its services to the Middle East following the end of hostilites in the Gulf, the airline said Tuesday.

The airline will once more fly to Riyadh, Dhahran, Bahrain, Dubayy and Abu Dhabi beginning Monday, Air Lanka said in a statement.

Air Lanka suspended its lucrative flights to the Middle East prior to the outbreak of war in the Gulf. The carrier serviced its international destinations in Europe by overflying the Soviet Union.